



## **SKIDSTEER LOADER SAFETY GUIDE**

**CAO November 18, 2024**

### **A: SUMMARY**

The purpose of this guide is to provide information regarding required training, proper use, limitations, and maintenance of skidsteer loaders. This guide is based upon the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards 20 CFR 1026.600. *Equipment*, 1926.602: *Material Handling Equipment*, 29 CFR 1926.1001, 1926.1002

### **B: SCOPE**

This guide applies to all Oklahoma State University employees who operate a skidsteer loader as a part of their work activities and their supervisors.

### **C: RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Employees must receive training and review the operator's manual, manufacturer's instructions, and this guide prior to operating a skidsteer loader.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that each skidsteer loader operator receives proper training before operating equipment and follows safety instructions.

### **D: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Regulations that apply to skidsteer loaders are the following:

- Seat belts shall be provided and operate properly.
- The skidsteer loader must be equipped with an electronic horn and operate properly.
- Scissor points on all frontend loaders which constitute a hazard to the operator during normal operation shall be guarded.
- The operator's cab area must be equipped with a rear-view mirror, wide side screens, roll over protection, safety instructions and warnings, and a second opening for an emergency exit.
- Skidsteer loader training is required prior to initial operation and annually thereafter. Training will include review of procedures and hands-on driving/operation.
- EHS can provide training, or supervisors must provide another competent source.
- Operators must be at least 18 years of age.
- Trainees may operate a skidsteer loader only where operations do not endanger the trainee, equipment, property, or other employees.
- Training must include the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to the work environment to control or eliminate hazards that may result in injury or property damage.
- Skidsteer loaders must be inspected prior to use. Missing hardware, frayed wires, or otherwise defective components must be replaced or serviced prior to use. Skidsteer loaders that require repair must be removed from service and marked "Out of Service, Do Not Use".
- Never modify or bypass safety devices.
- Operators should not exceed the manufacturer's recommended load capacity.

- Operators are required to wear safety belts.
- Persons working in close proximity to an operating skidsteer loader must wear a high-visibility safety vest. The skidsteer operator must maintain awareness of all persons in the area of operation.
- Where skidsteer operations are in close proximity to pedestrians, barricades or other warning devices must be set up to divert pedestrian traffic to a safe area.

## E: SKIDSTEER OPERATION

- The required Personal Protective Equipment includes safety eyewear, a hi-visibility vest, long pants and closed footwear.
- Operators are required to wear safety belts. Operator's arms and legs must be kept inside the skidsteer loader during operation.
- The use of electronic devices while operating equipment is prohibited.
- Under no conditions may a person pass under the elevated portion of the attachment.
- Unauthorized or untrained persons are not permitted to ride or operate skidsteer loaders.
- Under no conditions may a person stand on the attachment or accompany a load during travel.
- Operators must lower the attachment and set the brake prior to dismounting.
- When a skidsteer loader is left unattended (more than 25 feet from the operator) the attachments must be fully lowered, controls must be in neutral, brakes set, power must be shut off, and the keys must be removed. Keys must be kept in a secure location. When equipment is parked on inclines shall have the wheels chocked and the parking brake set.

## F: TRAVELING

- Ascend or descend grades (slopes) slowly.
- Operators must check overhead lights, pipes, and fixtures for sufficient clearance.
- The horn must be used whenever rounding a blind corner, approaching pedestrians, or operating around other vehicular traffic.
- A skidsteer loader may not be driven up to a person standing in front of a fixed object or wall.
- Maintain a safe speed and observe all traffic regulations, traffic signs, and signals.
- All skidsteer loaders traveling on public roads must display a slow-moving vehicle emblem (Figure 1).

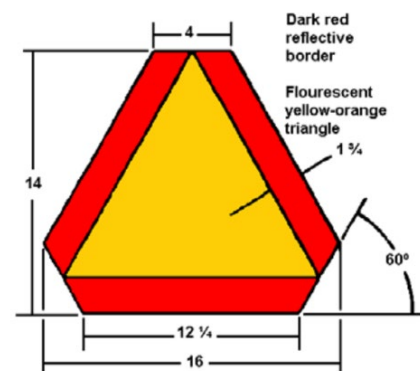


Figure 1 - SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM

NOTE: All dimensions are in inches.

## G: MAINTENANCE

- No modifications or additions which affect the capacity or safe operation of a skidsteer loader or attachments shall be made without the manufacturer's written approval. If such modifications or changes are made, the capacity, operation, and maintenance instruction plates, tags, or decals shall be changed accordingly.

Frontend loader buckets and attachments must be either fully lowered or blocked when not in use or being repaired. All controls shall be in a neutral position, with the motors stopped and the brakes set, unless the work being performed requires otherwise.

## H: REFUELING

- Fuel tanks must not be filled while the engine is running. Spillage should be avoided.
- Spillage of fuel should be carefully washed away or completely evaporated and the fuel tank cap replaced before restarting engine.  
Smoking is prohibited during re-fueling.

Read signage for the type of fuel required in equipment.

## I: References and Resources

- [OSHA Stds 29 CFR 1926.600 Motor Vehicles, Mechanized Equipment](#)
- [OSHA Stds 29 CFR 1926.602 Equipment](#)
- [OSHA Stds 29 CFR 1926.1001 and 1926.1002, Material Handling Equipment](#)
- [George Mason University Fairfax, VA 22030 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\) Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders](#)