



Safety Alert

Hazard Alert: Safe Lifting/Jacking of Equipment

Incident: A wheel loader requiring wheel change on all positions was fully raised using the loader bucket hydraulics and then supported by 2 stands positioned near the articulation point, and the loader bucket itself. All wheels were off the ground during the wheel change. On removal of the safety stands (by raising the machine with the loader bucket), one of the stands toppled causing damage to the machines transfer case.

This incident not only required repairs, but also had the potential to cause serious injury to the tyre service personnel as the loader was not properly secured against movement.

Caution: Whilst this alert relates to a wheel loader the following solution also applies to all vehicles/equipment with self lifting/jacking capabilities.

Solution: To avoid incidents like this from recurring, ensure you always adhere to the following points:

- **Check and Follow Safe Work Procedures at all times** – do not improvise or rely on procedures that may apply only to other equipment. **If in doubt, stop and ask your supervisor and carry out a risk assessment!**
- Where fitted, insert the anti-slew bar or locking pin to prevent articulation of the vehicle.
- Change wheels ‘axle by axle’, ie support ‘one axle at a time’ and carry out the wheel change, then support the other axle and carry out the wheel change.
- All equipment must be chocked against accidental movement – never raise all wheels off the ground unless approved as per manufacturer procedure using manufacturer approved stands/support.

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