

FOR ISSUE TO ENTERPRISE, NETWORKS AND WHOLESALE

SAFETY FAMILY IN ACTION

HEIGHT RESTRICTORS ON EXCAVATORS

What happened?

Whilst undertaking a routine check on the height restrictors of the excavators on site prior to commencing work it was identified that there is potential issue when setting height restrictors on the 2 different excavator types on site. Typical setting procedure involves fully extending the excavator arm with bucket open at its maximum position, a measurement is taken of the back (top) of the bucket using an engineering survey staff and then the hydraulics or electronic height restrictor is engaged.

During this check, the same procedure was taken for all excavators fitted with height restrictors on site and it was evident on one excavator that when following the procedure above the top of the excavator dipper arm was approximately 400mm greater than the height set on the restrictor when the bucket of the excavator was lowered to the ground.

Note the image to the right shows both machines set at 4m height: the machine on the left is a Volvo EC140DL and the machine on the right is a Hitachi 130 Lcn.

Notice the difference in bucket heights.

The Volvo (left hand side) is governed by the top of the dipper arm (when fully extended) where the Hitachi (right hand side) is governed by the top/back of the bucket. The consequence of this could be a potential breach of the safety clearance by approximately 300-400mm.



What action is required?

When setting to work any excavator or item of plant in proximity to live OHL, as well as seeking advice from the OHL owner and implementing the requirements of GS6, all plant and equipment with the potential to breach the safety distance that require height restrictors to be in used should be checked in all configurations to ensure the maximum allowable height cannot be breached once the height restrictor has been engaged. All excavators and items of plant where height restrictors are to be used should be checked to ensure they are set correctly.

If in doubt **STOP** and seek further guidance, Remember whilst it is good practice to limit the working height of equipment whilst working near OHL's, we should always check whether or not we need to be working near live equipment and where possible limit the size of the equipment used to reduce the risk.

Communication by (✓)	LSG		Notice board		Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	

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