



CONSTRUCTION & MINING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY GROUP

ADVISORY NOTICE – March 2010

ISO 12117-2: 2008 ROPS ON HYDRAULIC EXCAVATORS(6 – 50t)

There have been recent reports of contractors requesting their sub-contractors to conform to the new ISO standard 12117-2 : 2008 in relation to the provision of ROPS on hydraulic excavators.

Discussions with WorkCover NSW have indicated that the WorkCover NSW Position Paper – Protective Structures for Earthmoving Equipment dated May 2003 has not been changed since the introduction of ISO 12117-2 : 2008 in December 2008. This Position Paper specifically excludes hydraulic excavators from the provisions under the Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2001 to fit operator protective structures that conform with AS2294, subject to certain conditions relating to risk assessments.

WorkCover NSW have indicated that hydraulic excavators are excluded from these requirements except for their use in situations where they are at risk of overturning, or at risk of objects falling on their operators and they do not have an appropriate protective structure. Most State Regulatory authorities had adopted this position prior to the release of the new standard.

However the issue is not just restricted to NSW and should be looked on as a national issue. The Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC) has determined that, subject to certain thresholds, a contractor wishing to tender for federally funded contracts must be accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme. The FSC audit requirements state: *H16.7 All earthmoving equipment is fitted with compliant ROPS/FOPS and fitted with seat belts.*

The FSC requirement is consistent with the requirements under plant regulations in those jurisdictions where ROPS is required on mobile plant.

WorkCover NSW, along with other State Regulatory authorities, will be reviewing the situation shortly now that there is a suitable standard for hydraulic excavators.

With regard to the supply of new hydraulic excavators that are fitted with ROPS by the manufacturer that meet the ISO standard, there are currently only a very limited number of models that meet this standard. Expectations are that most OEM will have ROPS compliant machines available by 2011.

ROPS can be fitted to existing hydraulic excavators by accredited installers. To ensure that an excavator ROPS is strong enough, substantial reinforcement of the cabin platform structure must be carried out during the installation process. This after-market fitment of ROPS can only be carried out by specialist companies who are able to certify their ROPS installations.

CMEIG Advisory Notice 10 March 2010

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