WHS DOCUMENTS & TEMPLATES

DOC-TRS-PACK · Tractor and Slasher Safety & Competency Pack

Product Overview

For: Businesses whose workers operate tractors with slashers and other attachments: owners, supervisors, WHS advisers and workplace assessors

Version 1.0 · 9 November 2026

Editable tractor and slasher safety documents that work together: a safe work instruction, a pre-start checklist, a VOC and a supervisor's field verification.

Tractors roll over on slopes and at edges, PTO shafts catch clothing and limbs, and slashers throw objects. A licence or a card does not show that an operator keeps the ROPS and seatbelt in use, stops the PTO before getting off and hitches safely on your tractor. A verification of competency is how a business checks that, and keeps a record of it.

This pack answers three questions. The safe work instruction tells the operator what to do and when to stop. The VOC checks they can do it. The field verification checks the controls are working on site. A pre-start checklist is the link used every time.

Under the WHS Regulations, and in Victoria the OHS Regulations, operating a tractor is not high risk work that needs a licence. The business must still make sure each operator is competent, trained and supervised for the work. Some sites and principal contractors ask for more, such as a unit of competency or a site authorisation, and anyone doing construction work needs general construction induction training (the white card). Driving a tractor on a public road needs the right driver licence, and the tractor must meet road rules. A VOC is the business's own check that an operator can work safely on its equipment, at its site: it is not a licence and it is not a nationally recognised qualification.

SAMPLE

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Tractor and Slasher Safe Work Instruction

How to work safely with [Make and model] at [Site name]

Document number		**Version**	
Site		**Work area**	
Approved by		**Review date**	

1 Purpose and scope

This instruction sets out how to operate **[Make and model]** with a slasher and other attachments safely at **[Site name]**: the checks before use, the hazards and controls, the steps, and the points where the operator must stop.

It applies to every operator at the site, including contractors and hire users. It does not replace the manufacturer's operating instructions. Where they differ, follow the manufacturer and tell your supervisor, so this instruction can be corrected.

2 Who may do the work

- Has a current VOC for this work, and any licence or training the work needs
- Has been authorised by **[Supervisor name]** to do the work at this site
- Is fit for work, and has read this instruction and signed the acknowledgement at the end

Licence

Under the WHS Regulations, and in Victoria the OHS Regulations, operating a tractor is not high risk work that needs a licence. The business must still make sure each operator is competent, trained and supervised for the work. Some sites and principal contractors ask for more, such as a unit of competency or a site authorisation, and anyone doing construction work needs general construction induction training (the white card). Driving a tractor on a public road needs the right driver licence, and the tractor must meet road rules. A VOC is the business's own check that an operator can work safely on its equipment, at its site: it is not a licence and it is not a nationally recognised qualification.

3 The equipment

Fill in one copy for each item of equipment, or list each one this instruction covers.

Make and model: [Make and model]	
Equipment ID: [Equipment ID]	
Attachments or accessories used	
Manufacturer's operating instructions kept at: [Operator's manual location]	

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Tractor and Slasher VOC Assessment Tool

Verification of competency for one operator, on the tractor and slasher in scope, at [Site name]

Purpose	To check, and record, that a worker can operate safely on your tractor and slasher, at your site, following your procedures.
When to use it	Before a new worker does the work unsupervised at the site; when they start on a new type of machine, attachment or task; at the re-verification interval your business sets; and after any of the review triggers in Part K.
Who completes it	An assessor your business has chosen as competent to assess (see Part B). The candidate completes the knowledge questions and signs Part J.
What goes with it	The Knowledge Questions (Candidate) for the candidate to answer, the Marking Guide (Assessor) with the model answers, and the VOC Register to track who is verified and when they are due.

Before you start

- Agree the scope (Part C) with the candidate's supervisor: what the candidate will do, on what, and where.
- Do the pre-assessment checks (Part D) before anything else. If one fails, do not start.
- The candidate answers the knowledge questions. Mark them with the Marking Guide and record the result in Part E.
- Observe the practical work (Part F) in the real work area, during normal work where it is safe, with other people kept clear.
- Watch for the safety-critical fail criteria (Part G) the whole time. Any one stops the assessment.
- Record the evidence, the outcome and the re-assessment plan (Parts H and I), give feedback, and sign off with the candidate (Part J).

Licences, training and the VOC

Under the WHS Regulations, and in Victoria the OHS Regulations, operating a tractor is not high risk work that needs a licence. The business must still make sure each operator is competent, trained and supervised for the work. Some sites and principal contractors ask for more, such as a unit of competency or a site authorisation, and anyone doing construction work needs general construction induction training (the white card). Driving a tractor on a public road needs the right driver licence, and the tractor must meet road rules. A VOC is the business's own check that an operator can work safely on its equipment, at its site: it is not a licence and it is not a nationally recognised qualification.

Part A Candidate details

Name		**Position or role**	
Employer (if a contractor or labour hire)		**Employee or worker ID**	
Training or units of competency held (where required)		**Training completed (course and date)**	
Experience with this tractor and slasher		**Last VOC or training (date)**	

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Supervisor Field Verification Checklist

Tractors and slashers: rollover, ROPS and seatbelts, PTO guards, attachments, slopes and thrown objects

Site		**Areas checked**	
Date and time		**Shift**	
Verified by		**Equipment checked (IDs)**	

How to verify

- Visit the area while tractor and slasher work is under way. Look at each control working, not at its paperwork.
- Mark each check Pass, Not met or N/A. Pass means you saw the control in place and working. If you did not see it, it is not a Pass.
- Write what you saw in the evidence column: a location, a photo reference, a record you sampled.
- Talk to the people doing the work, using the questions after the checks. They know where the near misses are.
- Record every Not met in the actions table, with an owner and a due date. Fix what you can on the spot, and record that too.

Escalate now

If a ★ critical control is Not met, act before you leave the area. Stop or restrict the tractor and slasher work there until it is fixed or another control is in place, and tell **[Escalation contact]** the same shift. A failed critical control is a high potential incident: report it as one.

Checks

★ marks a critical control: one whose failure could let a tractor roll over, a person be caught by the PTO or struck by a thrown object. Delete checks that do not apply, and add your own.

No.	Look for (★ critical control)	Pass	Not met	N/A	What you saw (evidence)
Rollover					
1	ROPS fitted and seatbelts worn on the tractors sampled ★	☐	☐	☐	
2	Work stays within slope limits ★	☐	☐	☐	
PTO entanglement					
3	PTO guards are complete on the tractor and shaft ★	☐	☐	☐	
4	Operators stop the PTO and engine before getting off ★	☐	☐	☐	
Attachments					
5	Implements are hitched with pins and clips; nobody between tractor and implement while moving ★	☐	☐	☐	
Thrown objects					
6	Slasher guards and chains in place; areas cleared; exclusion zones kept ★	☐	☐	☐	

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END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

This sample shows a few pages, so you can judge the layout and the quality. Editable tractor and slasher safety documents that work together: a safe work instruction, a pre-start checklist, a VOC and a supervisor's field verification.

What the full product contains

- **Tractor and slasher safe work instruction: rollover, PTO entanglement, hitching, thrown objects and slopes; stop-work points**
  02_SAFE_WORK_INSTRUCTION/Tractor and Slasher Safe Work Instruction.docx and .pdf
- **Tractor and slasher pre-start checklist: ROPS, PTO and slasher guards; defect report and out-of-service tags**
  03_PRESTART_CHECKS/Tractor and Slasher Pre-start Checklist.docx and .pdf
- **Supervisor field verification checklist: rollover protection, PTO guarding, attachments, slopes and thrown objects**
  05_FIELD_VERIFICATION/Supervisor Field Verification Checklist.docx and .pdf
- **VOC assessment tool, the same as DOC-TRS-VOC**
  04_VOC_ASSESSMENT/Tractor and Slasher VOC Assessment Tool.docx and .pdf
- **VOC knowledge questions (candidate) and marking guide (assessor)**
  04_VOC_ASSESSMENT/Tractor and Slasher VOC Knowledge Questions (Candidate) and Tractor and Slasher VOC Marking Guide (Assessor), .docx and .pdf
- **Excel VOC register**
  04_VOC_ASSESSMENT/Tractor and Slasher VOC Register.xlsx
- **How the documents work together: one page**
  01_START_HERE/How the Documents Work Together.docx and .pdf
- **Setup guide: what to adapt before use**
  01_START_HERE/Setup Guide.docx and .pdf
- **Start here: Read Me First, Product Overview, Permitted Use Terms, Version Information**
  01_START_HERE/ (four PDFs)

Formats

- Word (.docx), editable, with your logo and business name in the header
- Excel (.xlsx), editable, with dropdowns and formulas
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