AllRoundVision

Best Practice Guidance

Assessing Visibility from the driving position

Introduction

The health and safety at work regulations 1992 requires employers to assess what health and safety risks their employees (and others) may be exposed to as a result of their work. Having made the assessment, the employer must then decide what steps he or she is going to take in order to protect those concerned by complying with relevant health and safety legislation. Where five or more workers are employed, the employer must record:

- The findings of the risk assessment.
- The measures taken to control the risks identified.

Therefore before work equipment can be put to work a visibility risk assessment should be carried out.

For the purpose of this guidance, mobile work equipment is any work equipment which carries out work while it is travelling or which travels between different locations where it is used to carry out work. Such equipment would normally operate on wheels, tracks, rollers, skids, etc.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 states -

'*Every employer shall ensure that, where self-propelled work equipment may, while in motion, involve risk to the safety of persons –*

> (e) where the driver's direct field of vision is inadequate to ensure safety, there are adequate devices for improving there vision so far as is reasonably practical;

All vehicles are normally fitted with flat rear view mirrors as standard and a rear view camera where necessary, so that the driver can see all round the vehicle and using best practice will be evaluated using the "1metre ARV Test"

The 1metre x 1metre test is the minimum distance of enhanced vision an operator should see to safely operate his/her machine. The 1metre x 1metre test is taking the standards to its simplest form to avoid confusion in the work place.

ARV 1metre Test – Operator and assistant required

To carry out a visibility risk assessment the following method should be used. Two people are required. Please ensure that the assessment is documented, noting date, vehicle make, model and identification i.e. machine serial number and file it in your machine file. This will help if you have a visit from the HSE.

Park your vehicle in an open space clear from any dangers. The operator will remain in the vehicle.
Hold a metre stick - or a piece of wood cut to 1metre length - horizontal at waist height with the opposite end touching the vehicle.

Walking around the perimeter of the vehicle the operator must be able to see your hand all the way around while remaining in their normal operating position.

Do this twice:

1. Once with the operator just moving his/her head as they normally would while operating the plant (make sure they are wearing their seatbelt) looking direct (that is without using the mirrors or camera)
2. Once with the operator just using the flat mirrors and convex mirrors and rear view camera system where applicable (again only using the normal head movements they would make while operating the plant)

At all stages the results should be documented using Form 1.

To achieve a minimum of 1m x 1m visibility additional visibility aids may be required

These may include

- CCTV for rearward visibility
- Convex external mirrors positioned to eliminate blind spots
- Convex internal rear view mirror to enhance visibility

The above assessment should be repeated after the installation of any ‘new’ visibility aids to ensure they achieve 1m x 1m visibility.

Form 1 **– All Round Vision Risk Assessment**

Machine Details

Machine Make ……..
Model ……..
Type ……..
Serial Number ……..

Are there any visibility aids or reversing aids installed on the machine?

	Installed	Condition		
		Clean Good	Cracked Poor	InOp
Flat glass				
Rear View Mirrors (exterior)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rear View Mirror (interior)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rear View Camera System	☐	☐	☐	☐
Convex Mirrors				
RHS	☐	☐	☐	☐
LHS	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rear	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interior	☐	☐	☐	☐
Audible reverse alarm	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual reverse warning lights	☐	☐	☐	☐

Comments

……

……

……

Name ……..

Signed ……..

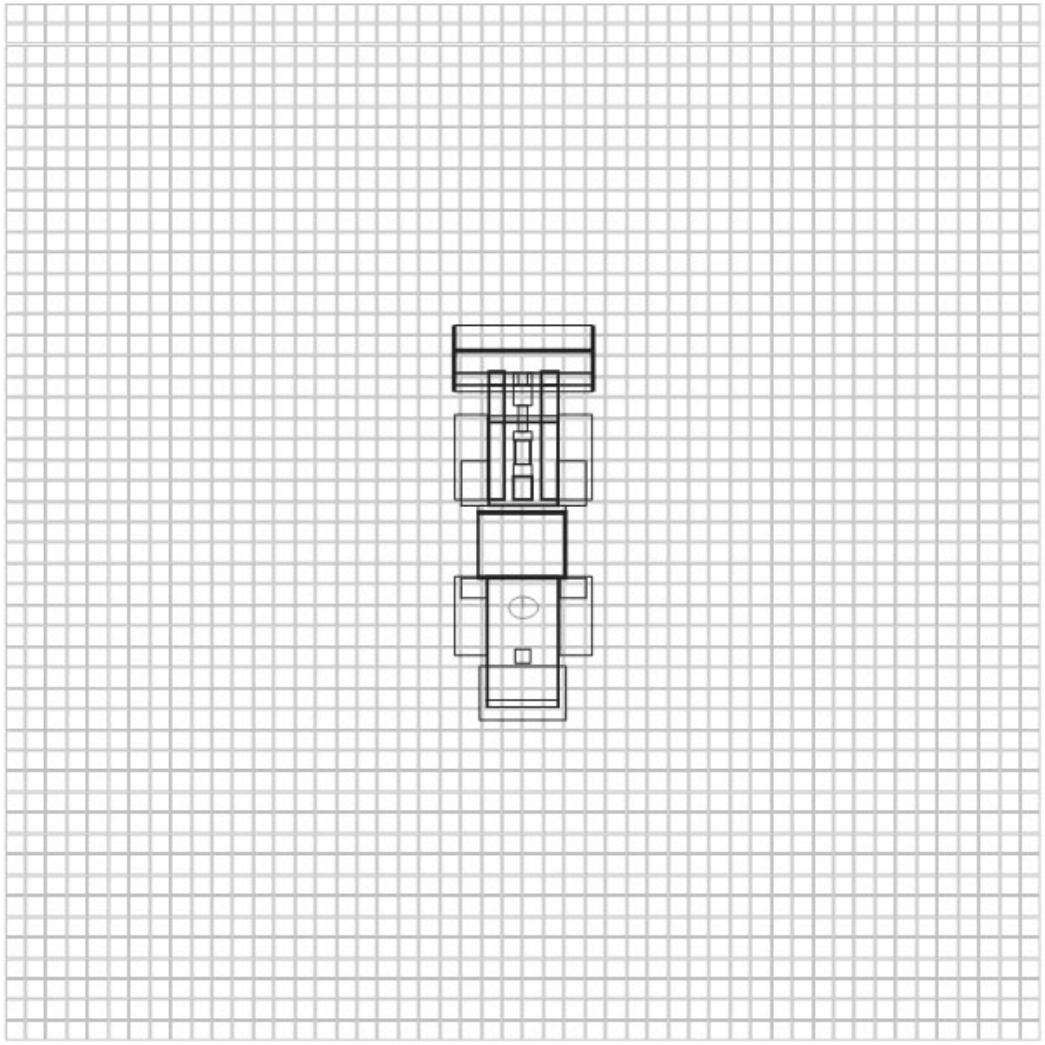
Date ……..

Form 2 - ARV 1m Test

Machine Details

Machine Make ……..
Model ……..
Type ……..
Serial Number ……..

Record the blind spots within the 1metre radius



Visibility beyond 1m should also be considered. Please remember that the operator must be able to operate in complete safety to him/herself and his or her fellow workers

Name ……..

Signed ……..

Date ……..