



**MAKING OUR
FARMS
SAFER**



Victorian
Farmers
Federation



Safety Considerations When Using a Telehandler

- Travel with the boom lowered to make sure that the centre of gravity of the machine and the load is as low as possible to maximise stability.
- Ensure that loading yards are well maintained and that pot holes and soft patches created by adverse weather conditions are addressed in a timely manner.
- Carefully choose routes to avoid overhead power lines, very steep slopes or gradients and slippery or loose surfaces.
- When working near dams and waterways make sure the ground can support the machine. Avoid ground that is waterlogged or eroded. Use spreader plates when needed.
- Adopt the correct driving direction and travelling position for negotiating a slope or gradient, e.g. when a load is carried the load should face uphill and when no load is carried the fork arms should face downhill.
- Avoid turning on or traversing a slope or gradient and always descend straight down the gentlest gradient of a slope, instead of driving diagonally across it.
- Avoid stacking/de-stacking a load on a slope or gradient.
- Use the boom safety prop supplied by the manufacturer if any work has to be carried out under a raised boom.
- The operator should always look around and check for the presence of by-standers before moving off and while manoeuvring and travelling. Use barriers and exclusion zones to keep people and vehicles clear of the Telehandler.
- Ensure that boom lockouts are used when shifting loads.
- When lifting a suspended load by hook or jib, move the boom slowly to avoid swinging the load. If it starts swinging, then reduce boom movement until it stops. Never use chains or slings slung over the forks or boom carriage.
- Only use a work platform that is directly fixed to the Telehandler, not on forks, and has been approved by the Telehandler manufacturer.
- Don't deploy or reset the outriggers while the boom is elevated with a load as this can cause major instability.



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Risk Assessment Checklist Before Using a Telehandler

- ☐ Operator has up-to-date training
- ☐ Task is suitable for the Telehandler
- ☐ Check for hazards such as power lines, other vehicles or machinery has been completed
- ☐ Attachment is compatible to the Telehandler
- ☐ Attachment has been well maintained
- ☐ Visibility is clear
- ☐ Mirrors are in good condition and properly adjusted
- ☐ Cab windows are clean and intact
- ☐ Telehandler maintenance is up-to-date as per manufacturer's instructions
- ☐ Telehandler manufacturer pre-checks completed
- ☐ Overload indicator is working
- ☐ Transport Lock-out switch is operable
- ☐ A fitted lap belt or similar restraint is used
- ☐ Bystander (e.g. other workers/ pedestrians) are clear of Telehandler operations
- ☐ A walk of the route and workplace have been done to check that the ground can support the Telehandler and load

