

Tractor SAFETY



R.C. Steward, B.C. Ranch Safety Consultant, Superintendent of Field Operations, AgSafe



Let's keep some things clear. I say keep them clear because the message has not changed in a long time about the risks associated with the use of tractors in agriculture. And I want to keep clear the message that AgSafe has proclaimed for a long time. **You must wear your seatbelt if you are operating a tractor equipped with ROPS (Roll Over Protection Structure {or System}I like that term as the system reminds us that it includes seatbelt use)**

■ Tractors are a leading source of serious injury and fatalities on farms and ranches. ■

accordance with part 16 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OSHR) for British Columbia. To help you determine competence

A recent publication may have caused confusion when reporting that you have a choice about seatbelt use based on some conditions... I want to make it crystal clear.....**you don't.**

Part 16 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OHSR) does make an exception for some industries and some mobile equipment use but this does not extend to agricultural tractors. Part 28.42 of the OHSR removes any exemption that is provided in section 16.33. I want to make it very clear..... **you don't** have a choice. A worker must not drive or use an agricultural tractor unless the tractor has a ROPS. If you want to use it without ROPS and it was manufactured on or before January 1, 1985 then you must have performed a risk assessment that shows there is a low risk of rollover. WorkSafeBC can order you to install a ROPS or remove the non ROPS equipped tractor from service. The risk assessment done for that tractor, its' specific location and type of use, as well as the determination of who can operate it when and where, are part of that risk assessment. WorkSafeBC can review the risk assessment as it pertains to a tractor without ROPS. AgSafe can help you with that risk assessment.

If your tractor has ROPS, no matter the style of approved ROPS, then you must wear a seat belt at all times when operating that tractor.

Attention to details pertaining to tractors is very important and can save lives. A very important part of any safety program in agriculture includes attention to tractor safety. Tractors are a leading source of serious injury and fatalities on farms and ranches. Training, orientation, competency determination, risk assessments, hazard awareness, pre-shift and regular inspections as well as maintenance all need to be part of your equipment safety program. Tractor incidents happen quickly and they happen to both experienced and new operators. Operators must be deemed competent to operate any mobile equipment in

AgSafe has tools and will guide you in this process.

Some important safety points for all tractor owners and operators:

- Conduct and keep records of a pre-shift inspection prior to commencement of work each shift
- Use a Roll Over Protective System (ROPS) and seat belt
- Conduct a thorough risk assessment for the tractor, implement and tasks
- Always start the tractor while in the seat
- Keep loads low when travelling
- Always keep an eye out for persons on foot working around the tractor
- Ensure eye contact with ground workers prior to moving the tractor or operating functions of the tractor when they are around
- Workers in direct proximity to a tractor and working around it are required to wear High Visibility garments
- No extra riders on tractor, bucket, or forks
- Follow recommended hitching procedures and weight limits
- Disengage the PTO prior to getting off the tractor
- Whenever possible keep the drawn implement on the uphill side of any slope
- If traversing steep terrain travel up and down rather than across the grade
- Turn on level ground whenever possible
- Stay away from soft shoulders
- Ensure brakes are in good condition and properly locked for higher speeds and highway/roadway travel
- Use a Slow-Moving Vehicle sign, Roll Over Protective

System and seat belt on public roads

- Ensure loads are properly secured.
- Disengage PTO, turn off tractor and set brake before leaving tractor seat
- Read and observe the safety recommendations and precautions found in the operator/owner manual
- Document instruction, orientation, risk assessment review, safe work practices and the review of the manual with all operators
- Monitor and provide ongoing supervision to operators under your direction and keep a record of your supervisory efforts

There is a great deal of responsibility and training involved in ensuring the safe operation of a tractor in any situation on any farm or ranch. The list provided is not exhaustive, conditions and tasks change and you must be alert to any changes and manage the risk that change the present situation. When in doubt **don't!**

For help with matters related to tractors in agriculture; safety awareness, supervisor and competency determination tools and assistance, orientation, risk assessments or other enquires please call AgSafe. **1-877-533-1789.**



*Reg Steward, AgSafe Provincial
Ranch Safety Consultant
reg@agsafebc.ca*

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