

# Power Take-Off (PTO)

AgSafe

## Safe Work Procedure

*A power take-off can cause devastating injury when guards are not in place. Each PTO shaft – including the rear, mid or side-mounted shafts – must be guarded by a master shield. Where the attachment of PTO-driven equipment requires the removal of the master shield, a guard providing equivalent protection must be put in place.*

### Procedure

1. Never operate the tractor without a guard on the PTO stub shaft when it is not connected to another machine or implement.
2. The area around the stub shaft should be covered by a rigid master shield that will also cover the universal joint on the attached power shaft.
3. **Two** types of guards can be used to shield the power unit:
  - a. Tunnel shields are inverted U-shapes attached to the tractor's master shield and the implement. The bottom of the shaft is exposed.
  - b. Integral journal (or floating) shields completely enclose the shaft.
  - c. They are plastic tubes supported on bearings to rotate independently from the shaft. Contact should stop the tube harmlessly, without the grabbing action of revolving shafts and universal joints. It is important to keep shields free of debris, which could prevent them from rotating independently.
4. PTO-driven equipment must be guarded to prevent contact with the rotating parts of the power drive system.
5. Always disengage the PTO drive before getting off the tractor. This protects the operator from shaft rotation and moving machine parts and prevents the unexpected engagement of power by someone else while the operator is making repairs or adjustments.
6. Keep the master shield in place, replacing it immediately after connecting or disconnecting the assembly. Never operate a tractor when the master shield is not in place.
7. Make sure the integral journal (floating) shields are in good condition.
8. Never step across a rotating power shaft. When PTO-driven machines are running, walk around the revolving shaft.

**Additional Safe Work Procedure Notes:**

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Please use the following **Safe Work Procedures** as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures.