

# 11/07 Skid steer operator injured

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### Incident

An employee suffered a serious back injury when the skip steer loader he was operating tipped (end over end) while he was installing drains. The narrow arch-base skid steer loader with rubber tracks was being operated on a slope with uneven ground when it allegedly manoeuvred over a rock, causing it to roll several times. The manufacturer's specifications state the machine should not be operated on slopes greater than 15 degrees.

### Factors to consider

- Stability of narrow arch-base skid steer loaders when operating on slopes with uneven ground.
- Manufacturers recommend angle for operation on a slope.

### Recommendations

1. Employers must conduct a risk assessment prior to work being carried out by skid steer loaders (rubber tracks or tyres). The risk assessment should include the effect of slope, uneven ground, weight of loads being lifted etc.
2. Employers must ensure that the machine is operated according to the manufacturer's operating instructions and not on a slope greater than the manufacturer's recommended angle.
3. Where the skid steer is being operated on slopes, tilt alarm, slop indicator or similar warning devices should be fitted to warn the operator about the impending danger to stability.
4. Operators must be made aware of safe working loads, including those applicable on slopes. This information should be provided in the cabin of the skid steer.
5. Employers must ensure that skid steer operators are adequately trained. National guidelines for occupational health and safety competency standards for the operation of load shifting equipment and other types of specified equipment (NOHSC: 7019) may be used as a guide.

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au) or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au)

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