

Plant and equipment safety



Plant and equipment are a major cause of work-related injury and death.

Plant is a general name for machinery, tools, appliances and equipment. It includes items such as power tools, machinery, conveyors, cranes, forklifts, vehicles, escalators and computers.

There are significant risks associated with using plant, such as:

- Entanglement in moving parts of plant
- Crushing due to plant tipping or rolling over
- Electric shock due to damaged leads and cables
- Hearing loss due to noisy plant

What you need to know

The Perth Airport estate is a complex environment which utilises plant and equipment in various forms to enable efficient and safe delivery of airport operations and projects.

Plant and equipment on the Perth Airport estate may be:

- Owned or hired by PAPL,
- Owned or hired by third parties working on the airport estate.

Information, instruction and training

Managers must ensure that workers are provided with adequate information, training or instruction prior to using plant.

This includes ensuring operators of plant have the appropriate licence if required.

Suitable information may include:

- Information on the types of hazards and risks the plant may pose and the control measures implemented,
- Operation and maintenance manuals,
- Safe Work Procedures.

Supervision

Supervision must be provided where required to ensure safe operation of plant.

The level of supervision required will vary dependant on:

- The type of work,
- Knowledge and skills of the workers.

Apprentices must be supervised.

High-risk work licences

Certain types of work require the worker to have a high-risk work licence before they can operate the plant. Managers must ensure workers have the appropriate current high-risk work licence if required.





Maintenance and inspection of plant

Plant must be maintained and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Plant should be inspected prior to use to identify any defects, damage, faults, or other changes which may impact on the safe operation of the plant.

Plant and equipment must be safely and effectively de-energised prior to any planned or reactive maintenance works. At Perth Airport we require energy sources to be isolated and controlled prior to maintenance and repair works commencing. Depending on the type of plant being isolated, workers carrying out energy isolation may require PAPL LOTO training. Examples of plant where LOTO training is required include escalators, lifts, conveyors, etc. Ensure all physical safety locks are in place when inspecting mobile plant (e.g. articulation locks, safety props, etc.)

Plant register

A plant register must be maintained which includes scheduled maintenance.

Making changes

Plant must not be used for anything other than its original intended purpose.

The risk management process must be carried out again if the person with management or control of the plant intends to:

- Change the way the plant is used,
- Change a system of work associated with the plant or,
- Alter the design of the plant.

Plant and pedestrian interactions

So far as is reasonably practicable, measures must be in place to eliminate or minimise the risk of plant colliding with pedestrians. This may include:

- Traffic Management Plan,
- Designated, fenced walkways,
- Spotters,
- Reversing cameras should be installed where possible.

Powered mobile plant

There are additional risks associated with powered mobile plant such as the plant overturning, collision with people and objects or the operator falling from the plant.

Managers must ensure appropriate control measures are in place and that suitable operator protection devices are provided, maintained and used. This could include:

- Rollover Protective Structure (ROP)
- Falling Objects Protection Structure (FOP)
- Seatbelts – Must be used where fitted.

Plant must be stored in a safe manner, for example, parked on a firm level surface, with the handbrake applied, the motor switched off and rendered inoperable, for example by removing the key. Keys must never be left in unattended plant. Where plant is being driven/operated on a public road, the plant must comply with all requirements of the Road Traffic Act and Road Traffic Code.

Guarding

So far as is reasonably practicable guards and physical barriers should be used to control risks. They may be used to prevent contact with moving parts, control access to dangerous areas, screen harmful emissions, minimise noise or prevent ejected parts from striking people. Removal of guarding shall only be done for maintenance or cleaning, in accordance with PAPL energy isolation requirements. Guards and physical barriers must be replaced prior to restarting plant.

Incident reporting and investigation

All hazards, incidents and near misses must be reported to your employer. Your employer must notify their Perth Airport representative of any such events.

All incidents must be investigated and a report provided to the appropriate Perth Airport representative.