

MATERIAL HANDLING

Safe Working Practices:

SWP- 12 Hydraulics General

Before doing any type of work you must carry out an assessment of the task to be undertaken. This will include the equipment to be worked on, the task itself, Personal Protective Equipment requirements, the work area and environment, plus the tools and equipment required to carry out the job safely. Consult your team leader if you are not satisfied the job can be carried out in a safe manner.

PERSONAL CARE

- 1.0 Barrier cream should be applied to the hands or gloves worn before commencing any work particularly that involving oils and greases. Barrier cream should be reapplied after washing.
- 1.1 Overalls should not be allowed to become impregnated with oil, they should be changed as often as is required to protect the wearer.
- 1.2 Good personal hygiene should be maintained at all times, particularly before eating, drinking and using the toilet, dermatitis and other complaints can be transferred to parts of the body from dirty hands.
- 1.3 Refer to your COSHH data sheet for additional information.
- 1.4 Safety eye goggles are **MANDATORY** when working on any pressurised system, including hydraulics and **MUST** be worn.
- 1.5 Tools should be kept as clean (dry) as possible to prevent slipping.
- 1.6 Industrial, oil resistant shoes are supplied by the company, you **must** use them, they provide protection against accidental crushing. They are also less likely to slip if oil is spilt.

GENERAL

- 2.0 When working under hydraulically elevated forks/mast sections or similar the load must always be blocked off mechanically to prevent the load collapsing (see SWP-02 "Jacking & Blocking". In accordance with SWP – 02 Jacking and Blocking
- 2.2 When testing hydraulic functions, Technicians must never place themselves in a dangerous position, for example, between the retracting reach carriage and battery/truck chassis.
- 2.3 Spilt oil should be caught in drip trays or similar and any oil finding it's way onto the floor must be cleared away entirely before leaving the site.
- 2.4 Our hydraulic systems can work at pressures in excess of 2,000 lbs per square inch and can have it's operating temperature raised to high levels, be careful care must be taken when opening pipes or cylinders that the pressure has been relieved. Stored pressure from accumulators or electronic/mechanical control valves can be hazardous. Oil escaping unexpectedly under pressure can penetrate the skin. Consiquentially never look for high pressure leaks in hoses by feel.
- 2.5 Blank off all open pipes and canals. It prevents leakage and ingress of dirt. This is of particular importance if the equipment is to be moved to another site or returned to FMC etc

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DISPOSAL

- 3.0 Waste or used oils and oil contaminated items e.g. filters, rags and absorbent materials must be disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner. See the Safety & Environmental Manual procedure “SM-31 Waste Generation, Storage and Disposal”.**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

- 4.0 See Safety & Environmental Manual procedure “Employment of Young Persons” for precise definitions on children and young persons.
- 4.1 “Children” may be allowed to work with tasks involving hydraulic oil subject to the conditions of this procedure and that of any other appropriate SWP. They must be kept under the constant one to one supervision of a competent person.
- 4.2 “Young Persons” may be allowed to work with tasks involving hydraulic oil subject to the conditions of this procedure and that of any other appropriate SWP. They must, however, be kept under the supervision of a competent person.