

Excavator Daily Pre-Start Inspection Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Jurisdiction: Adaptable. Covers OSHA 29 CFR 1926.602 (US) and UK PUWER 1998. Adaptable to other jurisdictions with heavy equipment regulations. Apply only the section and thresholds for the governing jurisdiction; do not combine US and UK requirements as if they were one code.

Inspection checklist

Inspection header

Excavator make and model

Machine ID / serial number

Operator name

Date and shift

360-degree walkaround (structure and undercarriage)

☐ Undercarriage and tracks: track tension correct; shoe pads intact; final drive no leaks	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Boom, stick, and bucket: no hairline structural cracks at weld points	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Pins and bushings: retaining bolts secure; no excessive play; grease present	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Teeth and cutting edges: sharp, retention pins intact	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Hydraulics, engine, and fluid systems

☐	Fluid levels: engine oil, engine coolant, hydraulic fluid (bucket flat, stick vertical per manufacturer)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Hydraulic lines and cylinders: no chafing, bubbling, wet spots; chrome cylinders no scoring or leaking seals	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Engine compartment: fan belt no cracking; air filter dust valve clear; radiator of packed mud and debris	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Critical wear points

☐	Hydraulic hoses: outer rubber jacket intact; no exposed steel wire braiding or weeping fluid	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Bucket teeth: sharp, locking rings present, snug fit	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Track tension: sag between carrier roller and idler within spec; no clanking during tramming	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Swing bearing: grease distributed; turntable bolts intact; no grinding during rotation	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Operator cab and in-cab safety devices

☐	Backup alarms and horns: bidirectional, distinguishable from ambient noise; backup alarm automatic in reverse	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Visibility aids: cab glass clean; mirrors intact and angled; rear-view / 360-degree camera boots without error codes	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Fire extinguisher: charged, in-date, securely mounted in cab	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Seat belts: mandatory with ROPS; latches securely	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Regulatory checks (PUWER / LOLER)

☐	Hydraulic deadman / safety lock: left-hand console raised disables all hydraulic joystick inputs	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If used for lifting (LOLER): hose burst check valves (HBCVs) on boom and dipper cylinders; safe load indicator present; statutory Thorough Examination within 12 months	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Defect action

☐ Defect description	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Machine taken out of service: Yes / No	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Key removed	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ 'Do Not Operate' tag attached	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Site supervisor notified	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Operator signature	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

References consulted

OSHA 29 CFR 1926.602 – Material handling equipment

UK HSE – PUWER 1998 (Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations)

UK HSE – LOLER 1998 (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations)

Verify the current edition and local adoption before use.