

Excavator Quick Coupler & Bucket Pin 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.

Inspection checklist

Quick Coupler & Bucket Pin Visual Inspection

☐ Inspect the quick coupler body for cracks, bends, or signs of wear. Are there any visible defects?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Verify the pin retention mechanism (e.g., locking lever, spring-loaded pin) is functioning correctly and securely holds the bucket pins in place.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Check the bucket pin diameter matches the coupler's specifications. Are the pins free from excessive wear, bending, or corrosion?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Confirm the presence and proper installation of all required safety pins or locking devices on the quick coupler and bucket attachment.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Inspect hydraulic hoses and fittings for leaks, cuts, abrasions, or bulges near the quick coupler. Are all connections tight and secure?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Check the hydraulic cylinder(s) for leaks, damage, or signs of wear. Is the cylinder rod free from pitting or scoring?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Examine the bucket for excessive wear, cracks, or deformation. Are the cutting edges sharp and in good condition?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Visually inspect the coupler's locking mechanism for proper alignment and engagement. Does it appear to be functioning smoothly?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Verify that all grease points on the quick coupler and bucket pins are properly lubricated. Is fresh grease visible?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure the quick coupler has legible markings indicating its rated capacity and model number. Are the markings clear and visible?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Functional Testing of Quick Coupler

☐	After attaching the bucket, perform a 'lift and tug' test to verify positive engagement of the quick coupler. Lift the bucket slightly off the ground and attempt to dislodge it by gently tugging. Repeat this test after EVERY bucket change.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Engage the hydraulic lock (if equipped) and confirm that it securely locks the bucket in place. Does the lock engage smoothly and hold firmly?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Cycle the bucket through its full range of motion to check for any binding, interference, or unusual noises. Is the movement smooth and unrestricted?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that the hydraulic pressure is within the manufacturer's specified range for the quick coupler and bucket attachment. Use a calibrated pressure gauge.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Test the emergency release mechanism (if equipped) to ensure it functions correctly and allows for quick bucket detachment in case of an emergency.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Listen for an audible 'click' or other confirmation sound when the quick coupler engages. Does the locking mechanism provide clear feedback?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Visually confirm that the locking pins or mechanisms are fully engaged and properly aligned after each bucket attachment.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	With the bucket fully loaded, check for any signs of instability or excessive movement in the quick coupler or bucket pins. Is the load secure and stable?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Documentation & Training

☐	Verify that the excavator operator is properly trained and certified to operate the specific excavator model and quick coupler system. Review training records.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure that the quick coupler's operating manual is readily available on site and that the operator is familiar with its contents.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Review maintenance records to ensure that the quick coupler and bucket pins have been regularly inspected and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that the pre-shift inspection checklist is completed and documented before each shift. Are all items properly addressed and signed off?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that there is a clear incident reporting procedure in place for any quick coupler or bucket pin related incidents. Is the procedure readily accessible to all personnel?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure that emergency contact information is readily available in the excavator cab. Are all contact numbers up-to-date?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that site-specific procedures for quick coupler and bucket pin safety are in place and followed. Are these procedures communicated to all personnel?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Review records of toolbox talks related to quick coupler and bucket pin safety. Are these talks conducted regularly and documented?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Site Conditions & Work Area

☐	Assess the ground conditions for stability before operating the excavator. Is the ground firm and level to prevent tipping or instability?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Identify and avoid any overhead obstructions, such as power lines or trees, that could interfere with excavator operation. Maintain safe clearance distances.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Locate and mark any underground utilities before excavating. Call 811 before digging to prevent damage to buried lines.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Implement effective pedestrian traffic control measures to prevent unauthorized access to the excavator work area. Use barriers, signage, and spotters as needed.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure adequate clearance between the excavator and other equipment or structures in the work area. Maintain a safe working distance.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that the work area is adequately lit, especially during nighttime or low-light conditions. Provide supplemental lighting as needed.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess the stability of any slopes or embankments near the excavation. Implement shoring or sloping techniques as needed to prevent cave-ins.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐ Monitor weather conditions and adjust work practices as needed to account for rain, snow, wind, or extreme temperatures. Suspend operations if conditions become unsafe.	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____
☐ Maintain good housekeeping practices in the work area to prevent slips, trips, and falls. Keep the area free of debris, tools, and materials.	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

Findings

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

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____