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## McNicholas Safety Alert

### Excavator Boom Crack

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McNicholas have recently sent out a safety alert regarding the ongoing failure of excavator booms, attached for your information.

Please ensure that your operator is aware of these problems and to be vigilant when undertaking their checks.

Any problems of this nature must be reported to the client's on-site representative and the RDL on-call manager immediately.

Should you have any queries regarding this brief, please contact Paul Saddington, Safety Director on:

E'mail: [psaddington@rdlonline.co.uk](mailto:psaddington@rdlonline.co.uk)

Mobile: 07976 623098

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This and all other RDL SHEQ briefs must be kept in section 8 of your site information manual for future reference at all times.

You are reminded of your responsibility to ring the 24 hour on-call/office number (01452 422666) under the following circumstances as a minimum: On arrival on site **for all works**, before leaving site **for all works**, if there is any change to RDL's or the client's planned works (including hours/travel/accommodation arrangements), if you observe anything you consider dangerous or you are just not sure about or if there is an accident/incident on site or whilst travelling to/from site.

# Safety Alert

May 2009

## EXCAVATOR BOOM CRACK

There have been several recent structural failures of excavator booms. A common failure pattern has not been identified, but it reinforces the need for extreme vigilance when operating excavators.

Machines must be fit for purpose and operated safely within their limits and capabilities. Any damage, however slight must be recorded and assessed to avoid risk of injury or further damage.



### Planning:

1. Responsible managers must assess all operations before procuring an appropriate machine to suit the required capacity, attachments, reach and workload to avoid overstressing.

### Management:

2. The operator must hold the relevant CPC card. In addition their working practice must be observed to indicate their competence. Unauthorised work practices or abuse of the machine should be identified by line supervision and any necessary corrective action taken.
3. All personnel whether they are operators, maintenance engineers, inspection engineers or supervisors/managers need to be aware that all machines should be regularly checked to ensure operational integrity and safety.

### Operator Checks:

4. All operators must thoroughly inspect their machines before and during operation to ensure that there are no cracks or signs of distress which could develop further.
5. In the event of any actual or suspected cracking being observed, then the machine must cease work immediately and the appropriate manager informed.
6. Under no circumstances are machines to be put to work if any cracking has been seen or reported until the machine has been thoroughly examined by an authorised person.
7. Only when a suspect machine has been signed off as fit for operation by an authorised person can it be allowed to resume work.

**REMEMBER: Safety is everyone's responsibility**