

Plant Hazard & Risk Assessment of the

Vermeer RTX 130 Hydrostatic **Pedestrian Trencher**

Prepared by:

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Date: November 13, 2019

EQUIPPED TO DO MORE.

PLANT HAZARD CHECKLIST

Date:	November 13, 2019	
Plant Name:	Vermeer RTX 130 Hydrostatic Pedestrian Trencher	
Plant Location:	Vermeer Equipment Holdings – Richlands, QLD	
	It is important to note that this Risk Assessment was conducted	
	using a desk-top methodology due to the design features shared	
	with a similar model of plant that was recently physically	
	assessed.	
Description:	The Vermeer RTX 130 Hydrostatic Pedestrian Trencher is	
	designed as a walk behind trencher with a dual steering arm	
	control system.	
	The Vermeer RTX 130 Hydrostatic Pedestrian Trencher can	
	also be fitted with a back-fill blade as an accessory item.	
	Therefore, this Plant Risk Assessment document will include the	
	hazards associated with the fitting (and use) of the back-fill	
	blade when fitted to the Vermeer RTX 130 Hydrostatic	
	Pedestrian Trencher.	

Assessment Team:

Name	Position
Gerhard A. Hendricks (CPE)	Certified Safety Practitioner – GAH technical

Notes:

- Consider the hazards in relation to the affect they may have on plant operators, anyone working, or in the near vicinity of the plant, visitors and contractors
- Consider the hazards for the Start Up, Operation, Cleaning, Maintenance, Shut Down, and Modification phases.
- Refer to the Plant Regulations and associated Code of Practice for specific details.
- If 'yes' is the answer to a question in the following checklist, the plant, parts of the plant and/or the situation associated with the hazard, should be identified on the checklist.

PLANT HAZARD CHECKLIST

Α	ENTANGLEMENT	
1	Can anyone's hair, clothing, gloves, necktie, jewellery, cleaning brushes, rags or other materials become entangled with moving parts of the plant, or materials in motion?	YES. The potential exists in the event where contact is made with the following components of the plant:
		 Track drive assembly located at either side of the base of the plant.
		 Front mounted rotating trencher cutting assembly.
		 Front mounted rotating auger mechanism located at the side of the plant (in front of the plant's right track).

В	CRUSHING	
1	Can anyone be crushed due to:	
a)	Material falling off the plant?	NOT APPLICABLE.
b)	Uncontrolled or unexpected movement of the plant or its load?	YES. In the event where the operator is not fully trained in the correct use of the plant and the steering arm mechanism.
c)	Lack of capacity for the plant to be slowed, stopped or immobilised?	YES. In the event where the operator is not fully trained in the correct use of the plant.
d)	The plant tipping or rolling over?	YES. In the event where the plant is being used on steep and / or unstable surfaces that can result in a tip over or rollover of the plant.
e)	Parts of the plant collapsing?	 YES. 1. In the event where the front mounted trencher mechanism and / or above mounted crumber assembly is in a damaged or unserviceable condition. 2. In the event where the back-fill blade (when fitted) is incorrectly attached to the plant.

В	CRUSHING	
f)	Coming in contact with moving parts	YES.
of insp clea	of the plant during testing, inspection, operation, maintenance, cleaning or repair?	 In the event where an operator / individual is standing near the plant when it is being moved or operated and body parts are run over.
		2. In the event where maintenance and / or repair-based operations are being performed on the plant when it is in operation.
		 Under no circumstances must any tools and / or equipment be stored on the plant when it is in operation.
		 In the event where the plant operator has their foot (feet) underneath the back-fill blade (where fitted) whilst it is being lowered under hydraulic power.
g)	Being thrown off or under the plant?	YES.
		The potential exists in the event where an individual is riding on the plant when it is in operation.
		THIS PRACTICE IS IN DIRECT VIOLATION TO THE MANUFACTURER'S OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS!
h)	Being trapped between the plant and	YES.
	materials or fixed structures?	The potential exists in the event where an individual(s) is standing between the plant and a fixed object(s) whilst the plant is being moved or in operation.
i)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

С	CUTTING, STABBING & PUNCTURI	NG
1	Can anyone be cut, stabbed or punctu	red due to:
a)	Coming in contact with sharp or	YES.
	inging objects?	 When the plant is in operation the potential exists for sharp objects to be ejected from the cutting mechanism.
		 When performing maintenance and / or repair-based operations the potential for an individual to sustain a serious laceration when contacting the cutting teeth exists.
		 It must also be noted that the plant can incorporate a number of sharp components as a result of its trenching operations.
b)	Coming in contact with moving parts	YES.
	of the plant during testing, inspection, operation, maintenance, cleaning or repair of the plant?	 When the plant is in operation the potential exists for sharp objects to be ejected from the cutting mechanism.
		 When performing maintenance and / or repair-based operations the potential for an individual to sustain a serious laceration when contacting the cutting teeth exists.
		 It must also be noted that the plant can incorporate a number of sharp components as a result of its trenching operations.
c)	The plant, parts of the plant or work	YES.
		 In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism contact hard rock or hard objects, the potential for sharp objects to hit an individual(s) exists.
		 In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism are damaged and / or are faulty, the potential for sharp cutting teeth to hit an individual(s) exists.

С	CUTTING, STABBING & PUNCTURI	NG
d)	Work pieces being ejected?	YES.
		 In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism contact hard rock or hard objects, the potential for sharp objects to hit an individual(s) exists. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism are damaged
		and / or are faulty, the potential for sharp cutting teeth to hit an individual(s) exists.
e)	The mobility of the plant?	NOT APPLICABLE.
f)	Uncontrolled or unexpected movement of the plant?	NOT APPLICABLE.
g)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

D	SHEARING	
1	Can anyone's body parts be sheared between two parts of the plant, or between a part of the plant and a work piece or structure?	YES. In the event where contact is made with the following parts of the plant:
		 Contact is made with the track drive assembly located at either side of the base of the plant.
		 Contact is made with the from mounted rotating cutting mechanism of the plant.
		 Contact is made with the side mounted rotating auger mechanism of the plant (in front of the plant's right track).
		4. In the event where the plant operator has their foot (feet) underneath the back-fill blade (where fitted) whilst it i being lowered under hydraulic power

E	FRICTION	
1	Can anyone be burnt due to contact with moving parts or surfaces of the plant, or material handled by the plant?	YES. In the event where contact is made with any rotating components that are connected with the plant's petrol engine.

F	STRIKING	
1	Can anyone be struck by moving obje	cts due to:
a)	Uncontrolled or unexpected movement of the plant or material handled by the plant?	 YES. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trench cutting mechanism disintegrate. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trench cutting mechanism makes contact with hard rock or hard objects in the ground. In the event where an individual(s) is standing between the plant and a fixed object(s) when the plant is being moved or in operation. In the event where the plant operator has their foot (feet) underneath the back-fill blade (where fitted) whilst it is
b)	The plant, parts of the plant or work pieces disintegrating?	 YES. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism contact hard rock and / or hard objects, the potential for sharp objects to hit an individual(s) exists. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism are damaged and / or are faulty, the potential for sharp cutters to hit an individual(s) exists.
c)	Work pieces being ejected?	 YES. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism contact hard rock and / or hard objects, the potential for sharp objects to hit an individual(s) exists. In the event where the cutting teeth of the trenching mechanism are damaged and / or are faulty, the potential for sharp cutters to hit an individual(s) exists.

F	STRIKING	
d)	Mobility of the plant?	YES. In the event where an individual(s) is standing between the plant and a fixed object(s) whilst the plant is being moved or in operation.
e)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

G	HIGH PRESSURE FLUID	
1	Can anyone come into contact with fluids under high pressure, due to plant failure or misuse of the plant?	YES. In the event where a hydraulic hose(s) and / or a mechanical fitting(s) fails and / or bursts under pressure, resulting in a discharge of hot fluid under high pressure.

Н	ELECTRICAL	
1	Can anyone be injured by electrical shock or burnt due to:	
a)	The plant contacting live electrical conductors?	YES. The potential exists for electrocution of the plant operator in the event where contact is made with electrical services buried underground when performing trenching operations which may also include back-fill operations where the accessory back-fill blade has been fitted.

Н	ELECTRICAL	
b)	The plant working in close proximity to electrical conductors?	YES.
		The potential exists for electrocution of the plant operator in the event where contact is made with electrical services buried underground when performing trenching operations which may also include back-fill operations where the accessory back-fill blade has been fitted.
c)	Overload of electrical circuits?	NOT APPLICABLE.
d)	Damaged or poorly maintained electrical leads and cables?	NOT APPLICABLE.
e)	Damaged electrical switches?	NOT APPLICABLE.
f)	Water near electrical equipment?	NOT APPLICABLE.
g)	Lack of isolation procedures?	NOT APPLICABLE.
h)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

I	EXPLOSION	
1	Can anyone be injured by explosion of gases, vapours, liquids, dusts or other substances, triggered by the operation of the plant or by material handled by the plant?	YES. In the event where the plant makes contact with either electrical or gas utility services that are buried underground.

J	SLIPPING, TRIPPING & FALLING	
1	Can anyone using the plant, or in the	<i>r</i> icinity of the plant, slip, trip or fall due to:
a)	Uneven or slippery work surfaces?	YES.
		 The potential for an individual(s) to slip, trip and / or fall exists due to the condition of the surrounding area where the plant is in operation and where the plant has cut a trench.
		 The potential also exists for an individual(s) to trip and fall into the completed trench either immediately following trenching operations.
b)	Poor housekeeping, eg. swarf in the vicinity of the plant spillage not	YES.
vicinity of the plant, spillage not cleaned up?	 The potential for an individual(s) to slip, trip and / or fall exists due to the condition of the surrounding area where the plant is in operation and where the plant has cut a trench. 	
		 The potential also exists for an individual(s) to trip and fall into the completed trench either immediately following trenching operations.
c)	obstacles being placed in the vicinity of the plant?	YES.
		The potential for an individual(s) to slip, trip and / or fall due to an accumulation of earth / spoil left lying around the plant (including the trench) also exists.
d)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

J	SLIPPING, TRIPPING & FALLING	
2	Can anyone fall from a height due to:	
a)	Lack of a proper work platform?	NOT APPLICABLE.
b)	Lack of proper stairs or ladders?	NOT APPLICABLE.
c)	Lack of guardrails or other suitable edge protection?	NOT APPLICABLE.
d)	Unprotected holes, penetrations or	YES.
	gaps:	In the event where a trench has been cut into the ground and left for a period of time without any form of protection and / or warning for an individual's protection.
e)	Poor floor or walking surfaces, such as the lack of a slip-resistant surface?	NOT APPLICABLE.
f)	Steep walking surfaces?	NOT APPLICABLE.
g)	Collapse of the supporting structure?	NOT APPLICABLE.
h)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

K	ERGONOMIC	
1	Can anyone be injured due to:	
a)	Poorly designed seating?	NOT APPLICABLE.

κ	ERGONOMIC	
b)	Repetitive body movement?	YES.
		The requirement to perform repetitive body movements whilst applying varying degrees of force when using the plant does exist by the very nature of the operations being performed with the plant, which includes the operation of the plant's controls and the handling associated with the plant and its components (including any attachments where applicable).
c)	Constrained body posture or the	YES.
	need for excessive enon?	The requirement to perform repetitive body movements whilst applying varying degrees of force when using the plant does exist by the very nature of the operations being performed with the plant, which includes the operation of the plant's controls and the handling associated with the plant and its components (including any attachments where applicable).
d)	Design deficiency causing mental or	YES.
	psychological stress?	In the event where the operator has not been correctly trained in relation to the operation of the plant.
e)	Inadequate or poorly placed lighting?	YES.
		Operation of the plant is not recommended in dark or poorly lit environments. Sufficient lighting is recommended at all times.
f)	Lack of consideration given to	YES.
		The potential for an untrained operator to be injured when operating the plant is extremely high.
g)	Mismatch of the plant with human traits and natural characteristics?	YES.
		The potential for an untrained operator to be injured when operating the plant is extremely high.

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Κ	ERGONOMIC	
h)	Other factors not mentioned? (For more information on hazards associated with manual handling refer to the Victorian Manual Handling Code of Practice.)	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

L	SUFFOCATION	
1	Can anyone be suffocated due to the lack of oxygen, or atmospheric contamination?	YES. In the event where the plant is used in enclosed or poorly ventilated areas.

Μ	HIGH TEMPERATURE FOR FIRE	
1	Can anyone come into contact with objects at high temperatures?	YES. In the event where an operator makes contact with the plant's petrol engine which includes the exhaust system.
2	Can anyone be injured by fire?	YES. The possibility exists for fire to occur when refuelling the plant with petrol.

Ν	TEMPERATURE (THERMAL COMFC	DRT)
1	Can anyone suffer ill health due to exposure to high or low temperature?	YES. When working in extremes of temperature (I.e. hot and cold) the ability for the operator (and assistants) to be affected from a decision-making perspective can be impaired.

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0	OTHER HAZARDS	
1	Can anyone be injured or suffer ill-health from exposure to:	
a)	Chemicals?	YES.
		The potential for skin related conditions could occur when handling petrol, lubricants and hydraulic fluids.
b)	Toxic gases or vapours?	YES.
		The possibility exists for either the plant operator and / or an assistant standing near the plant's exhaust system for a prolonged period of time.
c)	Fumes?	YES.
		The possibility exists for either the plant operator and / or an assistant standing near the plant's exhaust system for a prolonged period of time.
d)	Dust?	YES.
		The possibility of dust being created by the plant when in operation is extremely high.
e)	Noise? (For more information on hazards associated with noise, refer to the Victorian Noise Code of Practice.)	YES. Please refer to the following noise emission readings: Noise @ source (beside power unit) = 104 dB(A) Noise next to operator = 92 dB(A) Noise @ 1.0 Mtr. = 98 dB(A) Noise @ 2.0 Mtr. = 94 dB(A) Noise @ 2.0 Mtr. = 94 dB(A) Noise @ 3.0 Mtr. = 91.5 dB(A) Noise @ 5.0 Mtr. = 87.5 dB(A) Noise @ 7.0 Mtr. = 85 dB(A) Noise @ 10.0 Mtr. = 80.5 dB(A) It is important to note that the above noise emissions pertain to a similar plant with a virtually identical petrol engine. Noise emissions from the plant will vary in accordance with atmospheric conditions (I.e. Wind) and the nature of trenching operations being performed.

0	OTHER HAZARDS	
f)	Vibration?	YES.
		The plant operator is subjected to varying levels of vibration when operating the plant.
		Levels of vibration vary between moderate and extremely high levels.
g)	Radiation?	YES.
		The potential for the plant's operator and / or assistant(s) to become exposed to ultra violet radiation emitted from the sun due to varying exposure levels does exist.
		This factor is particularly relevant as the plant's operator will be required to stand at the front of the plant's operating control panel during the entire operation of the plant.
h)	Other factors not mentioned?	ADDITIONAL NOTES BY OPERATOR TO BE INCLUDED IF APPLICABLE.

PLANT HAZARD CHECKLIST – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / NOTES

PLANT HAZARD - RISK ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

A. ENTANGLEMENT

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

It is important to ensure that absolutely NO contact is made with any of the moving parts of the plant when it is in operation. Particular caution must be applied with respect to contact with the front mounted trencher cutting apparatus, the front right-hand side mounted rotating auger and the track drive system located at the base on either side of the plant.

The rubber protection curtains fitted above the front mounted auger must be maintained to the manufacturer's standards at all times. They must be replaced in the event where they are either worn out and / or damaged.

All safety decals applied to the plant warning of the possibility of an entanglement hazard must be kept in a good condition at all times.

Persons performing maintenance and / or repair-based operations on the plant must be trained and qualified to perform such work.

B. CRUSHING

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

Plant operators must be experienced and conversant with the plant's safe operating procedures when negotiating difficult terrain, soft or unstable surfaces or when working on an incline.

All body parts (in particular the feet) must be kept well clear from the plant at all times except for the plant operator's hands that must be used to operate and steer the plant.

In the event where the plant has been fitted with the accessory back-fill blade it is imperative to ensure that the plant operator does not have their foot / feet located in close proximity to the back-fill blade as it is being lowered / raised under hydraulic power.

The front mounted crumber and trench cutting assembly must be maintained to the manufacturer's operating standards to ensure that these components do not collapse when set in an elevated position.

Under NO circumstances must any individual(s) ride on the plant whilst it is in operation and / or being traversed around the work site.

THIS PRACTICE IS IN DIRECT VIOLATION TO THE MANUFACTURER'S OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS!

When the plant is in operation no individual must stand between the plant and any fixed objects.

No tools must be stored on the plant when it is in operation.

Persons performing maintenance and / or repair-based operations on the plant must be trained and qualified to perform such work.

C. CUTTING, STABBING & PUNCTURING

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

It is important to ensure that absolutely no contact is made with any of the moving parts of the plant when it is in operation. In particular the front mounted trench cutter and the side mounted rotating auger.

Under no circumstances must the plant be operated where any fault is detected. In the event where a fault / damage to the plant has been detected the plant must be returned to a Vermeer Equipment Holdings P/L service centre for the necessary repairs and parts.

Extreme care must be applied when removing or fitting the cutting teeth to the cutting mechanism. All cutting teeth must be torque to the correct tension to the cutting chain.

Persons performing maintenance and / or repair-based operations on the plant must be trained and qualified to perform such work and wear suitable PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to ensure against any lacerations when handling potentially sharp components (I.e. Cutting teeth etc.).

D. SHEARING

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

Extreme caution must be applied at all times to ensure that no body parts are positioned anywhere near the front mounted rotating trench cutting chain and the right-hand side mounted rotating auger. This requirement also includes the track drive assembly that is fitted to either side of the base of the plant.

In the event where the plant has been fitted with the accessory back-fill blade it is imperative to ensure that the plant operator does not have their foot / feet located in close proximity to the back-fill blade as it is being lowered / raised under hydraulic power.

Under no circumstances must the plant operator and / or any individual make contact with the plant when it is in operation, except to operate the plant from its controls.

Persons performing maintenance and / or repair-based operations on the plant must be trained and qualified to perform such work.

E. FRICTION

Under no circumstances must the plant operator and / or any individual make contact with the plant when it is in operation, except to operate the plant from its controls.

F. STRIKING

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

In the event where the plant has been fitted with the accessory back-fill blade it is imperative to ensure that the plant operator does not have their foot / feet located in close proximity to the back-fill blade as it is being lowered / raised under hydraulic power.

In the event where maintenance and / or repair-based operations are being performed, all tools must be placed in a secure and safe manner to prevent the possibility of them falling from a height.

It is important to ensure that the individual cutting teeth connected to the cutting chain are correctly tensioned and remain in a good condition at all times.

An assessment of the ground surface must be made (where possible) prior to performing trenching operations.

G. HIGH PRESSURE FLUID

It is important to ensure that the hydraulic hoses and all mechanical fittings are maintained to a high standard and not damaged in any way. If these hydraulic hoses and mechanical fittings are damaged, they must be replaced with the manufacturer's original replacement parts in the first instance before further trenching operations can resume.

H. ELECTRICAL

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

Plant operator(s) must be made aware of any potential contact with underground electrical cables or gas pipes prior to operating the plant. This potential hazard should also be checked with the appropriate utility authorities prior to undertaking trenching operations.

In the event where the plant has been fitted with the accessory back-fill blade it is imperative to ensure that the plant operator is aware of any potential electrical sources that may be buried underground before using the back-fill blade.

Plant operators must consider the option of wearing suitable protective clothing that are designed to isolate the operator from electrocution in the event where contact is made with underground electrical cables.

It is also imperative that the rubber hand grips (as fitted to the steering handles) are maintained to the manufacturer's high standard in order to help prevent the possibility of the operator incurring an electrical shock in the event where the plant has made contact with an electrical source. The rubber hand grips when in very good condition will act as a source of electrical isolation for the operator.

I. EXPLOSION

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

Plant operator(s) must be made aware of any potential contact with underground electrical cables and gas pipes prior to operating plant. This potential hazard should also be checked with the appropriate utility authorities prior to undertaking trenching operations.

J. SLIPPING, TRIPPING & FALLING

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

All items, which could constitute a slipping, tripping and falling hazard, must be removed from the actual plant and the surrounding environment.

All observers involved in trenching activities will need to be made aware of the residual debris (spoil) left on either side of the trench which is created when performing trenching operations.

When standing near the trench any individual(s) must be made aware of the potential for the sides of the trench to collapse.

Removal of spoil following trenching operations must be performed as soon as possible and the ground surface returned to a safe state without any depressions wherever possible.

K. ERGONOMIC

All persons not involved with trenching operations must keep well clear of the trenching plant at ALL times when it is in operation.

Care must be exercised when performing trenching operations for prolonged periods of time due to the potential for sprain and strain and vibration related injuries of the upper and lower limbs and the neck. Suitable rest breaks are advised when extended plant operation operations are being performed.

Prior to performing any trenching operations, it is important to ensure that the plant operator and all assistants are correctly trained in the safe use of the plant and are made aware of the hazards associated with trenching operations.

Prior to the operation of the plant, it is important to ensure that sufficient lighting levels are available.

It is recommended that all persons associated with trenching operations use suitable hearing protection due to the noise levels produced from the plant.

It is imperative to ensure that all of the manufacturers' safety decals warning of the plant hazards are maintained to an extremely high standard at all times and that they are kept visible to ensure that they remain conspicuous at all times.

L. SUFFOCATION

Prior to performing trenching operations, consideration must be given towards ensuring that the area offers effective levels of ventilation in order to minimize the potential for a build up of exhaust gases.

M. HIGH TEMPERATURE FOR FIRE

No persons involved with the operation of the plant must have contact with either the exhaust system or any internal workings of the plant at any stage, except where maintenance operations are to be performed by a qualified service technician.

All refueling operations must comply with the manufacturers written safety instructions.

N. TEMPERATURE (THERMAL COMFORT)

The plant operator and all observers involved with trenching operations will need to be aware of the climatic conditions when performing their operations and take the necessary safety precautions to protect themselves from potential extremes in temperature.

Persons must keep clear from the engine and all attached components at all times when the plant is in use.

OTHER HAZARDS

(CHEMICALS)

Plant operators or maintenance person(s) must wear suitable personal protective equipment when handling petrol, hydraulic fluids and lubricants.

(TOXIC GASES OR VAPOURS)

All persons working on or near the plant must keep well clear of the exhaust gases when the plant is being operated.

Caution must also be taken when filling the fuel tank with petrol in accordance with the plant manufacturer's instructions.

(FUMES)

All persons working on or near the must keep well clear of the exhaust gases when the plant is being operated.

Caution must also be taken when filling the fuel tank with petrol in accordance with the plant manufacturer's instructions.

(DUST)

All persons working on or near the plant must take appropriate care with potential dust exposure as a result of trenching activities.

Suitable protective equipment must be worn in the event where the exposure to dust is experienced.

(NOISE)

It is recommended that an in-situ noise assessment be conducted in accordance with Victorian Occupational Health and Safety (Noise) Regulations 1992.

It is recommended that the plant operators and ALL persons involved in trenching operations are provided with and wear suitable hearing protection at all times when the plant is in use.

(VIBRATION)

The potential for the plant operator to experience vibration during trenching operations exists. It is recommended that appropriate trenching methods be applied to reduce the potential for sustained exposure to vibration.

It is recommended that the plant operator always wears high quality hand gloves when operating the plant as an additional form of hand protection against vibration.

(RADIATION)

The potential for the plant's operator and / or assistant(s) to become exposed to ultra violet radiation emitted from the sun due to varying exposure levels does exist.

All persons performing operations with the plant must be provided with and (where necessary, use suitable protective equipment (PPE).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The above stated controls relate to the normal use of the plant as described from both the plant operator and those persons involved with trenching operations with the plant.

In the event where maintenance operations are being performed on the plant, additional care will need to be applied at all times due to the fact that the maintainer is often exposed to higher levels of risk.

It is important to ensure that all auditory and visual warning devices as fitted to the plant for the purpose of warning individuals when the plant is in operation and when moving, be maintained to the manufacturers' operating standards at all times.

In an attempt to apply the appropriate risk controls, it is recommended that a fully trained and qualified Vermeer Pty Ltd maintenance person be employed to perform the necessary repairs and/ or maintenance operations on the particular item of plant.

It should also be noted that all individuals who are required to operate this item of plant or who will be working in the vicinity of the plant will need to be provided with sufficient training to ensure that they are fully aware of all of the risks associated with the item of plant and are well aware of the appropriate risk control strategies prior to the operation of the plant. This document, together with any additional information provided in the Vermeer Equipment Holdings Pty Ltd Safety / Operators User Guide will need to be provided as part of this training information that must be provided to all plant operators and their assistants.

Gerhard A. Hendricks (CPE) Certified Safety Practitioner

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