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Excavator Daily Pre-Start Walkaround Safety Checklist

Excavator Daily Pre-Start Walkaround interactive checklist for operators—commentable and export as PDF/Excel. Verify leaks, hoses, pins, bucket teeth, guards, mirrors, alarms, extinguisher, fluids, and damage.

Project:
Date:
Filled by:

Cab and Safety Systems

1	Clean and adjust all mirrors and camera lenses using a microfiber cloth and glass-safe cleaner; verify unobstructed view of swing radius and travel path. Acceptance: lenses and mirrors streak-free with full coverage; attach photos from operator eye height.
2	Inspect seat belt, mounts, and ROPS/FOGS guards; pull-test the latch and retract mechanism. Acceptance: belt latches/releases smoothly, no cuts/frays; guards secure; photo of belt tag and guards.
3	Function-test horn, travel alarm, and swing alarm for clear, continuous sound. Method: key ON, actuate controls as specified. Acceptance: audible within 1 s, clearly heard at 10 m; short video clip as evidence.
4	Verify fire extinguisher type and charge. Method: confirm accessibility, pin/seal intact, gauge in green, tag in date. Acceptance: service date current; mount tight; photo of gauge and tag.

Hydraulic System and Hoses

5	Inspect hydraulic hoses, couplings, and clamps along boom, stick, and frame; wipe with a clean rag and recheck after 1 minute. Acceptance: no fresh oil weep; abrasion sleeves intact; attach close-up photos.
6	Check cylinder rods and wiper seals for scoring, pitting, or seal extrusion. Use flashlight and clean rag. Acceptance: rods smooth and dry after wipe; no seal damage; photos of worst-case areas.
7	Test quick coupler locking. Method: lower attachment to ground, engage/disengage per OEM, visually confirm mechanical locks. Acceptance: locks fully seated; secondary safety engaged; photo showing visible lock indicators.
8	Check auxiliary hydraulic lines and caps. Method: confirm dust caps present, hoses supported, no kinks. Acceptance: caps fitted; no leaks at quick-connects; close-up photo.

Boom, Stick, Bucket and Pins

9	Assess pin and bushing wear at boom-foot, boom-stick, stick-bucket. Method: apply pry bar to detect play; measure visible movement in mm. Acceptance: within manufacturer tolerance; record measurement and attach video/photo.
10	Inspect bucket teeth, adaptors, edge, and side cutters. Method: visual and tap test for cracks. Acceptance: no missing or cracked components; wear within OEM limits; photo of cutting edge and teeth.
11	Verify bucket retaining pin and safety clip presence. Method: confirm clip seated and secured; attempt light pull. Acceptance: clip fully engaged; pin cannot drift; close-up photo.
12	Scan booms, sticks, linkages, and welds for cracks, dents, or deformation. Use flashlight; clean dirt where needed. Acceptance: no visible structural damage; photo of any suspect area for supervisor review.

Undercarriage and Travel Gear

13	For crawlers, measure track sag midspan using a ruler on level ground. Acceptance: within OEM specification; record sag in mm and photo of measurement.
14	For crawlers, check track shoes, carrier rollers, idlers, and sprockets. Method: visual for wear, missing bolts, oil leaks. Acceptance: no missing/loose hardware; seals dry; photos of left/right sides.
15	For wheeled excavators, inspect tyres for cuts and bulges; check pressure with a calibrated gauge. Acceptance: pressure per data plate/OEM; record kPa and tyre condition photos.
16	Inspect slew ring area and upper/lower structure interface. Method: visual for missing bolts, cracked paint lines, or grease purge. Acceptance: all bolts present; no abnormal grease ejection; photo panorama.

Fluids and Electrical

17	Check engine oil level on level ground with engine off. Method: dipstick wipe/reinsert. Acceptance: oil between MIN–MAX; oil clean (no metal or milkiness); photo of dipstick.
18	Verify hydraulic oil sight gauge. Method: machine level, boom/stick retracted. Acceptance: fluid between sight marks; no foaming; photo of gauge.
19	Confirm coolant level in expansion tank (engine cold). Acceptance: between LOW–FULL marks; hoses intact; no crusted leaks; photo of tank and cap area.
20	Check fuel and DEF (if fitted). Method: read gauges; inspect DEF cap and label. Acceptance: sufficient for planned shift; DEF sealed, clear, and uncontaminated; record % and photo.
21	Inspect batteries and cables. Method: tug-test terminals; look for corrosion; ensure clamps tight. Acceptance: secure, corrosion-free; battery cover fitted; photo of terminals.
22	Function-test work lights, travel lights, indicators, and beacons. Acceptance: all illuminate/flash correctly; replace failed bulbs before operation; short video as evidence.

General Condition and Housekeeping	
23	Check steps, handrails, and non-slip surfaces. Method: tug and step test. Acceptance: rigid, undamaged, clean of mud/grease; photo of access points.
24	Verify guards, engine covers, and belly pans are fitted and latched. Acceptance: all fasteners present; no rattles; photo of latches and panels.
25	Clear cab of loose items; secure tools and documents. Acceptance: floor and controls unobstructed; operator's manual and permits present; photo of cab interior and document pocket.
26	Start engine and observe gauges for 60 s at idle. Acceptance: no warning lights; stable oil pressure and temperature; no abnormal noise/vibration; photo of instrument panel; escalate defects per approved project specifications and authority requirements.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
<p>Excavator Daily Pre-Start Walkaround ensures every machine begins the shift safe, compliant, and fit for purpose. This daily pre-operation inspection, often called an excavator walk-around or prestart checklist, focuses on visible defects that cause downtime and incidents: hydraulic leaks, chafed hoses, worn pins, broken bucket teeth, missing guards, obscured mirrors or cameras, faulty alarms, out-of-date fire extinguishers, low fluids, and general damage. The scope covers all excavator types—crawler and wheeled—conducted on level ground with the engine off (unless function-testing). It excludes maintenance repairs and deep diagnostics, which must be escalated to qualified technicians per approved project specifications and authority requirements. By capturing measurements, photos, and comments, this checklist reduces unplanned stoppages, protects people and assets, and documents compliance. Begin outside-in, verify safety systems first, then undercarriage, structures, hydraulics, attachments, and fluids, finishing with a short start-up check. Use this interactive checklist to tick items, add comments, attach photos, and export PDF/Excel with a secure QR.</p>	<p>1. Preparation: Park on level ground, lower the attachment, and chock if needed. Gather PPE (helmet, gloves, safety boots, eye protection), flashlight, clean rags, ruler, and a calibrated tyre gauge. Have the OEM manual and site rules ready per approved project specifications and authority requirements. 2. Using the Interactive Checklist: Open the checklist on your device, start interactive mode, and work outside-in. Tick each item, enter measurements (mm, kPa, %), and attach photos or short videos for evidence. Add comments to note locations, serials, or escalation needs. 3. Capture Issues and Escalate: For defects, add a comment with severity, part location, and action required. Tag maintenance, upload close-ups, and mark the item as fail. If a red-tag safety issue exists, stop work and isolate the machine immediately. 4. Sign-Off and Share: Add operator and supervisor digital signatures. Export as PDF/Excel and distribute to stakeholders. Archive the record with a secure QR code for site verification and future audits.</p>