

As a result of a reported failure of machinery, please read, understand and comply with instruction.

### **Background to the incident**

A 17mtr telehandler, fleet number 17MC0315 was delivered to site in Cambridge, the day after delivery a call came into say the machine had fault as the machine tipped forward, there was no injury to any person on site.

Watling JCB attended site and noted that the reason for failure was tape and metal covering the boom back sensor. By covering this sensor you can extend the boom and override the jack leg safety feature, over extending can then cause the machine to tip forward. The tape was removed and machine worked correctly.



The picture attached shows the tape and metal in place. When removed the machine functioned correctly.

The sensor is located to rear of machine behind the hinged door and when Pre Hiring, this area should be checked to avoid any possibility of the machine being sent out in this condition.

### **Factors to Consider**

- Was the engineer who carried out pre hire experienced and competent?
- Was the engineer aware of pre hire procedure?
- Could the machine have been tampered with on site?

The fitter was an experienced CITB trained LOLER engineer with over 20 years in the industry, the pre hire sheet completed shows items have been checked, verbal communications raised confirm the checks were completed.

It is our opinion the machine was tampered with while on site. The machine was working closely to scaffolding and our belief is site covered the sensors to allow extension of the boom by covering the sensors that disable the jacklegs. We have come to this conclusion as height in this case was not a factor but if the jacklegs were used, the scaffolding could have restricted the room required for the works being carried out.

### **Prevention and precautions**

While preventing this tampering on site cannot be stopped at source, engineers need to be made aware of the incident for future incidents.

Precautions at Pre Hire stage is to ensure checks are completed correctly and the pre hire sheet not filled in as a tick in the box exercise.

Remember Safety in the Workplace is everyone's responsibility, both morally and legally. We need to ensure we work safe and go home safe every day.

**Incident Reporting Ensure all incidents including near misses are reported directly to the Health and Safety Department immediately by emailing [healthandsafety@ardenthire.com](mailto:healthandsafety@ardenthire.com)**