

## **Rules for plant and equipment using quick hitches on Skanska sites in the UK as from 1 November 2009.**

Semi automatic quick hitches and fully automatic quick hitches with single pin capture will not be permitted on Skanska sites after 31 October 2009.

1. Machines with traditionally fixed buckets (i.e. with fixed pin connection) will be allowed on site.
2. Until such times as double locking mechanisms are readily available for machines below 5t, manual quick hitches will be permitted subject to demonstration of an adequate maintenance regime.
3. Fully automatic double locking quick hitches meeting all relevant European and UK designs standards will only be acceptable if they have the following safety features:
  - both front and rear pins of the attachment must be captured by locks such that if the rear lock does not engage the rear pin, or the rear pin becomes disengaged the attachment will be retained on the quick hitch by the front lock.
  - the quick hitch must have an automatic mechanical lock to prevent at least one of the pins from becoming disengaged due to hydraulic failure. Reliance on check valves is not acceptable.
  - the operator must be able to visually confirm from the cab the correct engagement of the hook and mechanical backup lock. Where the hitch has mechanical locking to both locks, visual confirmation of the engagement of one lock will be acceptable (this will usually be the front lock).
  - the pin locks and any backup locking system may only be able to be disengaged when the attachment is in the crowded position.
  - audible warnings must be present in the cab whenever the lock is in the release position.
  - the hitch controls in the cab must be positioned and designed to prevent unintentional activation and the machine must be fitted with a device that requires a minimum of two independent actions to release either of the two locks.