

# Toolbox Talk

## Banksman



### What?

- Workplace terms such as Banksman, Escort, Traffic Marshal etc. are titles used to describe people who act as a “lookout” for drivers and machine operators where there are blind spots when moving or manoeuvring vehicles or equipment
- Their primary role is to make sure people do not get too close to this type of activity and to instruct the driver or machine operator to cease operations if there is any sign of danger to those around the vehicle or equipment including themselves
- The driver or operator is expected to follow the Banksman / Escort’s instructions and to immediately stop operations when asked to do so and to check with the Banksman / Escort before continuing with the work

### Why?

- People are seriously injured or killed in the UK each year by vehicles or equipment “on the move” including Banksmen and Escorts and therefore it is essential to look for safer ways to keep people and moving equipment apart by creating separate access / roads or erecting barriers to avoid people and vehicles / equipment sharing the same space
- Vehicles / equipment should be fitted with suitable devices such as mirrors, cameras, sensors, trips, horns, flashing lights etc. to assist in detecting or warning people in the general vicinity
- If Banksmen or Escorts need to be used they must be properly trained, have good hearing and eyesight, wear appropriate PPE including high visibility clothing and must always follow the stipulated rules for this important

**NO  
REVERSING  
WITHOUT  
BANKSMAN**

### Do



- ✓ Instruct the driver/operator to stop immediately if they cannot see you at any time
- ✓ Ensure you have been trained, appointed and undergone a general health check
- ✓ Wear suitable PPE for the task, particularly high-vis clothing so that you are easily seen
- ✓ Establish clear communication lines with the driver/operator (hand signals, radio etc.)
- ✓ Always position yourself in a safe position well clear of the operating radius or travel route
- ✓ Make sure you can be clearly seen by the driver / operator at all times during the activity
- ✓ Check, if the driver/operator uses mirrors that you can see them clearly in the mirror
- ✓ Watch out for trapping points to avoid crushing
- ✓ Always keep in the drivers/operators line of sight especially if you need to move position
- ✓ Make sure no-one gets close to the operation and stop the operation immediately if they do

### Don't



- ✗ Use defective equipment
- ✗ Work without the correct Permit
- ✗ Perform this role if you have not been properly trained and formally appointed
- ✗ Go within the operating radius or line of travel while the equipment is moving
- ✗ Permit anyone to enter the area of work
- ✗ Forget to communicate properly with the driver /operator using the correct technique
- ✗ Lose sight of the drive / operator if you cannot see them they cannot see you!
- ✗ Let your mind drift always keep your eyes and mind on the task don't get distracted
- ✗ Allow unsafe acts or conditions to go unchallenged. Stop the operation immediately and address the problem before restarting.
- ✗ Leave the driver or operator unattended. If you need to leave for any reason (e.g. toilet, tea break, lunch etc.) stop operations and make alternative safe arrangements