

Powered Mobile Equipment (PME) Hazard Assessment

As described in Part 11 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations, 2020, Powered mobile equipment (PME), “is any self-propelled machine or a combination of machines, including a prime mover, that is designed to manipulate or move materials, or to provide a work platform for workers.” Before any work begins a hazard assessment should be documented to recognize safety concerns for every piece of machinery.

SCSA PME Checklist Sample			
Item	O.K.	Requires Action	Comments
Brakes			
Steering			
Tires			
Air Tanks			
Fluid Levels			
Engine Belts			
Suspension (front & back)			
Hoist Rams			
Main Frame			
Body Dump			
Lights			
Glass			
Handrails			
Ladders			
Seat Belts			
Fire Extinguishers			
Back Up Alarm			

Powered Mobile Equipment Site Evaluation

Owners and operators have responsibilities for the safety of workers and the general public. To ensure that no accidents occur operators should perform a site evaluation. A proper site evaluation should consider the following: route, clearance, ground conditions, workers, structures, power lines, other services and other equipment.

Who Can Operate Powered Mobile Equipment?

Only individuals who are deemed competent by the employer are allowed to operate PME. Every piece of equipment is different and requires a different set of skills. Therefore, being deemed competent on one type of PME does not permit an operator to use all types of PME. The Saskatchewan Employment Act (Table 11) defines what training a PME operator should have. This includes understanding of:

- Proper operation of Powered Mobile Equipment
- Risk Assessment of visual inspection
- Protection of workers
- Duties of employers and operators

There is no formal licensing system in Saskatchewan for PME operators. It is the responsibility of the employer to ensure the operator is competent and possesses the minimum requirements listed in table 11. Further information on PME can be found in Part 11 of the OHS Regulations.

Tool Box Talk

When accidents and incidents happen on the jobsite, we are always quick to point the finger at lack of training, not following practices or procedures, or even improper supervision. The idea that the hazards and dangers associated with the job were not properly communicated to all of the workers is often missed.

Tool Box Talks can go by many names, and although formats may vary, these meetings all serve one purpose: to inform employees and contract workers. Tool Box Talks are short, informal, meetings between management and the workers on a jobsite. The goal of these meetings is to reinforce current safe job procedures, inform workers of new and/or relevant procedures, review recent safety violations/incidents, and ensure workers are up-to-date on the information required to complete their work safely.

Always use a Tool Box Talk form to record the meeting topic, date, who was in attendance, and any follow-up actions to be taken. Not only do these forms help with consistency of record keeping, but they also ensure that nothing is missed. At the end of the meeting have management sign off on the form.

One of the most important aspects of a Tool Box Talk is giving workers an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions. All employees have a right to participate in health and safety as it relates to their work and it is the supervisor or manager's responsibility to create an environment for them to do so. Once the meeting is over, and the form is filled out, it should be filed with other documented Tool Box Talks.

Remember that Tool Box Talks are short and informal, they are not meant to be intimidating. Use the opportunity to have fun and stay on top of what is necessary to keep safety culture a strong part of the business.

For a full listing of Tool Box Talk topics, visit: www.scsaonline.ca/resources/tool-box-talks

For a copy of the Tool Box Talk form, visit: www.scsaonline.ca/pdf/Tool_Box_Meeting.pdf

About the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association

The Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) is an industry-funded, membership-based, nonprofit organization that provides cost-effective, accessible safety training and advice to employers and employees in the construction industry throughout the province to reduce the human and financial losses associated with injuries. Registered March 20, 1995, the SCSA is, and has been since inception, committed to injury prevention. Serving almost 10,000 member companies with business offices in both Regina and Saskatoon, the major business units of the association are Advisory Services, Business Development, Corporate Services, Program Services and Training. The mission of the SCSA is constructing safety leadership in Saskatchewan and the vision is to create the safest construction environment in Canada.