



RISK ASSESSMENT

SILENCER HYDRAULIC CATTLE CRUSH



1. Activity Description

The **Silencer Hydraulic Cattle Crush** is used for restraining and handling cattle for veterinary procedures, hoof trimming, and general livestock management. The system operates using hydraulic controls to adjust the head gate, squeeze panels, and other moving parts.

2. Identified Hazards & Risks

Hazard	Risk	Who is at Risk?	Severity (Low/Med/High)	Likelihood (Low/Med/High)	Control Measures
Moving parts (squeeze panels, head gate, hydraulic arms)	Crushing injuries, entrapment	Operators, handlers, animals	High	Medium	Ensure operators are trained, keep hands and limbs away from moving parts, use emergency stop features if fitted.
Hydraulic system failure	Sudden movement, potential crushing, oil leaks	Operators, maintenance staff	Medium	Low	Regular maintenance, inspect hydraulic hoses for leaks, replace worn parts.

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Animal behaviour (kicking, sudden movement, aggression)	Impact injuries, trampling, bruises	Operators, handlers	High	Medium	Proper cattle handling techniques, use calm handling practices, avoid standing in high-risk areas.
Slips, trips, and falls	Injuries from falling on wet/slippery surfaces	Operators, handlers	Medium	Medium	Keep the area clean, ensure non-slip flooring, use appropriate footwear.
Noise from hydraulic operation	Hearing damage over time	Operators, handlers	Low	Medium	Provide ear protection if necessary.
Electrical hazards (if connected to a power source)	Shock, fire risk	Operators, maintenance staff	High	Low	Regular electrical checks, use proper grounding, avoid water exposure.

3. Control Measures & Precautions

- **Training:** Only trained personnel should operate the **Silencer** hydraulic cattle crush.
- **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):** Gloves, steel-toed boots, and ear protection (if noise is significant).
- **Safe Working Practices:**
 - Keep hands clear of moving parts.
 - Stand in a safe position when operating the squeeze panels.
 - Do not exceed the hydraulic system's capacity.
- **Maintenance & Inspections:**
 - Perform regular hydraulic system checks.
 - Ensure emergency stop functions are operational if fitted.
 - Lubricate moving parts to prevent sudden malfunctions.
- **Emergency Procedures:**
 - Establish a clear emergency stop and exit plan.
 - Have a first aid kit readily available.

4. Risk Evaluation & Review

After implementing control measures, reassess the likelihood and severity of risks.

- Are risks **eliminated** or **minimized**?
- Does the equipment remain **safe for use**?
- Review risk assessments periodically and after any **incidents or equipment modifications**.



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