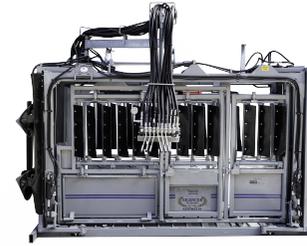


# Safe Operating Procedures for a Silencer Hydraulic Crush



A **Silencer Crush** is a hydraulic livestock handling system designed to safely restrain cattle for veterinary, branding, or other management tasks. Proper operation is critical to ensuring the safety of both the handlers and the animals.

## 1. Pre-Operation Inspection

### ✓ Check Equipment Condition

- Inspect hydraulic hoses and fittings for leaks or damage.
- Ensure all moving parts are lubricated and functioning properly.
- Confirm the hydraulic system has adequate oil levels.
- Check the emergency stop is working correctly if fitted.
- Verify that all safety guards and covers are in place.
- **NB.** Pull Levers to **OPEN**.  
Push Levers to **CLOSE**.

### ✓ Work Area Safety

- Keep the area clean and free of trip hazards.
- Ensure non-essential personnel are outside the working zone.
- Have an emergency exit route in case of an animal becoming agitated.

### ✓ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wear steel-toe boots, gloves and safety glasses.
- Avoid loose clothing that may get caught in moving parts.

## **2. Safe Operation Procedures**

### **A. Preparing the Crush**

1. Ensure the crush is properly installed and on level ground.
2. Set up the hydraulic system and test functions before use.
3. Adjust head gates and side panels to accommodate different cattle sizes.

### **B. Loading Cattle into the Crush**

1. Use low-stress cattle handling techniques.
2. Guide animals through the Turret Gate or alley system, ensuring animals are not overcrowded.
3. Encourage cattle to enter the crush voluntarily—avoid excessive prodding.

### **C. Restraining the Animal**

1. Smoothly engage hydraulic controls to close the crush front gate.
2. Adjust side squeeze panels to hold the animal securely but not excessively tight.
3. Utilize optional features (neck extender bars, lower access gates/panels) as needed for the procedure.

### **D. Performing Tasks on the Animal**

1. Ensure the animal is properly restrained before beginning work.
2. Minimize procedure time to reduce stress on the animal.
3. Always have a second person present in case of emergencies.

## **E. Releasing the Animal**

1. Ensure all personnel are in a safe position before releasing.
2. Open the front gate first, then release the side panels and tailgate.
3. Allow the animal to exit calmly, avoiding sudden movements that could startle the animal.
4. Close and reset the crush for the next animal.

## **3. Emergency Procedures**

### **Hydraulic Failure:**

- Shut off the hydraulic system using emergency stop - if fitted, and manually release pressure if needed using the levers.
- Use the manual override to open the crush to release an animal.

### **Animal Down in Crush:**

- Open emergency side gate to release the animal safely.
- If necessary, release the animal from the front or back to avoid injury.

### **Handler Injury:**

- Stop all operations immediately.
- Provide first aid and seek medical attention if required.

## 4. Post-Operation Maintenance

### Cleaning:

- Remove dirt, manure, and debris from the floor by cycling the Lower Squeeze in and out a number of times after each use.
- Wash the crush to prevent buildup that can lead to malfunctions.

### Inspection & Storage:

- Inspect for wear and tear on hydraulic hoses, bolts, and moving parts.

## 5. Safety Reminders

- ⚠ **Never place hands or feet near moving parts.**
- ⚠ **Do not exceed the crush's rated weight or size capacity.**
- ⚠ **Always work with a partner when handling large animals.**
- ⚠ **Keep children and untrained personnel away from the crush area.**

Following these **Safe Operating Procedures** will ensure that both cattle and handlers remain safe, while also extending the lifespan of the Silencer Hydraulic Cattle Crush.



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