

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 083 – WACKER PACKER - VIBRATORY RAMMER

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for safe operation of vibratory rammers/compactors at Illusions Australia.

Applies to compaction of soil/fill using approved petrol or other powered rammers.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only trained and competent workers may operate the rammer.

Operators must understand vibration, noise, fuel/exhaust, stability, buried services and safe starting/shutdown.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Safety footwear.
- Hearing protection.
- Eye protection.
- Gloves suitable for grip and vibration exposure.
- High-visibility clothing where plant/traffic is present.
- Respiratory protection where dust is not otherwise controlled.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Machine, guards, handle, throttle and stop control are serviceable.
- Fuel system has no leaks.
- Compaction area is clear of people and trip hazards.
- Underground services are identified where relevant.
- Ground/edges are suitable.
- Ventilation is adequate for engine exhaust.
- Dust controls are available.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Move machine to work area using safe handling assistance where required.
2. Start in accordance with manufacturer instructions in a ventilated area.
3. Grip handles firmly without excessive force.
4. Operate at controlled pace, allowing the machine to compact rather than forcing it.
5. Maintain clearance from edges, excavations and people.
6. Use dust suppression where required.
7. Take breaks/manage exposure where vibration is significant.

8. Stop engine before refuelling or clearing obstructions.

9. Allow hot components to cool before storage.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Operate in poorly ventilated enclosed areas where exhaust can accumulate.
- Refuel while engine is running/hot.
- Use near unverified underground services where impact could create risk.
- Operate on unstable edges or steep slopes beyond machine limits.
- Leave running unattended.
- Place feet near the compacting shoe.
- Use a leaking/damaged machine.

7. VIBRATION AND MANUAL HANDLING

Rammers transmit vibration and can be heavy to move.

- Use mechanical/team assistance for transport.
- Maintain machine condition.
- Manage exposure duration and avoid excessive grip force.

8. FUEL, EXHAUST AND FIRE

Petrol engines produce carbon monoxide and involve flammable fuel.

- Use adequate ventilation.
- Refuel cold engine in designated area.
- Keep ignition sources away.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Stop for fuel leak, abnormal vibration, failed stop control, unstable ground, service concern or operator loss of control.

Isolate and tag defective equipment.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Stop engine and allow to cool.
- Clean compacted soil/debris after isolation.
- Store upright/stable as designed.
- Refuel only under approved arrangements.
- Report defects.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.

5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Underground-service risk is unresolved.
- Ventilation is inadequate.
- Machine controls/guards are defective.
- Ground/edge conditions are unsafe.
- Operator cannot maintain control.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	SWP 083 – Wacker Packer - Vibratory Rammer
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Prepared By	Aidan McDonnell
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