

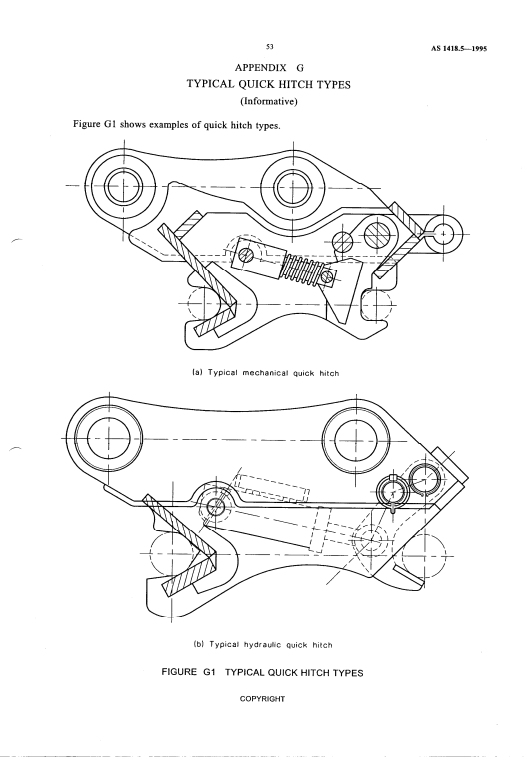
Quick hitch

An incident on a construction site has caused serious, permanent injuries to a young worker. While working near an excavator fitted with a quick hitch device the bucket fell from the excavator on to the worker.

Quick hitch devices are used on earth moving equipment for ease and speed of attachment removal and change. These devices depend on, positive hydraulic pressure and mechanical locks, to hold on to buckets and other attachments. When quick hitch devices are used they must comply with, the Occupational Health and Safety Act in particular the Australian Standards 1418 part 5, which specify the conditions required for use. They include;

- An independent latching device which is positively and mechanically (i.e. safety pin), locked in an engaged position which cannot be unintentionally disengaged.
- Markings which include details of manufacturers name and model, maximum rated capacity, quick hitch mass and lifting point capacity.
- If earthmoving plant is used to lift or suspend loads they must travel with the boom retracted to minimum practical radius,
- No person shall be permitted under the boom or suspended load.
- All persons operating the earth moving equipment slinging or directing the load shall have the appropriate certificate.

If earthmoving equipment is being operated on your site with quick hitch devices there must be a safe system of work adopted and it is essential that the mechanical locking pins are used to ensure that uncontrolled release does not occur. If the Australian Standard requirements are not adhered to the machine **MUST** not be used.



Quick hitch diagram extracted from Australian Standards 1418 part 5

Report unsafe sites and safety procedures call 9221 1055 Text 0419812 861