

CFMEU OHS ALERT

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EXCAVATOR FOR DIGGING, CRANE FOR LIFTING.

If an excavator is used for operations outside its intended purpose, it increases the risk of failure, injury or worse - and insurers are unlikely to accept that risk.

Current legal and insurance advice is that if an excavator is to be used as a crane, it must be proven that the excavator (and operator) is covered by the appropriate third party excavator liability insurance.

Excavators must have:

- All of the up to date and relevant tests for cranes as required for a mobile crane under the Australian Standards – including crack tests on arm/boom of the excavator.
- Hose burst protection valves.
- Load charts inside the cabin.
- Load charts for all designated lifting points. Lift points must not be attached to quick hitch buckets.

Further, the operator of the excavator needs to have their mobile crane high risk license. If you do have a license, it's important that you read and understand the load charts. You must also fully understand the appropriate hand and whistle signals given by the qualified dogman whilst directing the load. Persons directing and/or slinging loads must have a high risk license of dogging or rigging.



If any of these cannot be objectively proven,
the excavator must not be used as a crane!

SIMPLE ANSWER: AN EXCAVATOR IS THE WRONG PLANT FOR LIFTING, USE A CRANE.

Further Reading:

Safe Work Australia – Using Powered Mobile Plant as a crane - <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1703/using-powered-mobile-plant-as-a-crane-information-sheet.pdf>

WorkSafe Victoria – Earthmoving equipment used as a crane - <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/earthmoving-equipment-used-crane>

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