

Environmental and Occupational Health &amp; Safety Unit

# OHS ALERT

## 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 had all the up to date and relevant tests for cranes as required for a mobile crane under the Australian Standards – including crack tests on the arm/boom of the excavator.

Further, the operator of the excavator should have their mobile crane high risk license.

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.



**Contact the CFMEU OHS Unit:**

**9341 3444**

**vic.cfmeu.org.au**

*Safety is union business.*  
**Stand up. Speak out. Come home.**