

Roll-over protection on tractors

Queensland health and safety legislation requires all tractors at workplaces (including schools) to be fitted with a Roll-over protective structure (ROPS).

Even early model tractors built as far back as 1945 can be supplied and fitted with an approved ROPS.

In the agricultural industry, tractors are an integral item of plant and are usually quite safe. However, if not used correctly and maintained they can become dangerous.

ROPS are designed and constructed to protect the tractor operator during a roll-over in any direction. The tractor is also be fitted with a seatbelt and it is to be worn by the operator when the tractor is moving. This provides additional protection in the event of a tractor rolling over by keeping the driver within the protective zone provided by the ROPS.



Where a tractor is used in the agricultural curriculum the Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment (CARA) Guideline for [Tractor Driving](#) clearly addresses the necessity of ROPS and seat belts. Under the section 'Requirements for equipment' it states - "The tractor must be fitted with suitable roll-over protective structure (ROPS) and a seatbelt".

What should schools do?

- Check existing tractors to ensure they are fitted with a suitable ROPS and seat belt. Ensure that when purchasing tractors they are factory fitted with ROPS and seat belt at the time of purchase.
- Follow the CARA guideline for [Tractor Driving](#).
- Review [Safe Operating Procedures](#) (SOPs) for tractors and ensure the manufacturer's operating instructions are incorporated. This is particularly important if required to drive on sloping or rough ground.
- ROPS must comply with the design and testing requirements specified in *AS 1636.1 – 1996 Tractors – Roll-over protective structures*. More information on ROPS requirements and standards can be found in the '[Safe design and operation of tractors – Code of Practice 2005](#)'.

More information

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland website links:

- [Tractor safety precautions](#)
- [Safe design and operation of tractors – Code of Practice 2005](#)

Contact

Fleet Management – for information on registering and insuring your school tractor.

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