



Rollover Protection and Operating Tractors Safely

The safety of operators is increased when tractors are equipped with a rollbar or cage frame around the operator. The use of these rollover protective structures (ROPS) and a seat belt system can help reduce injuries. Many older tractors without ROPS are still in use. All tractors manufactured after October 25, 1976, must be equipped with ROPS and a seatbelt.

Employers must:

- Train workers on safe tractor operations before any work begins and annually.
- Replace the ROPS if an overturn occurs.
- Ensure ROPS meet OSHA standards (1928.52, 1928.53, 1926.1002, 1926.1001).
- Never remove the manufacturer's labeling that is affixed to the rollover protective structure.

Worker safety practices:

- Securely fasten seat belt.
- Do not carry passengers.

- Drive slower near ditches, slopes, and waterways.
- Stay clear of slopes too steep for safe operation.
- Use caution when reaching row ends, on roads, and around trees.
- Avoid sharp turns and sudden starts or stops.
- Set brakes when stopping the tractor and use park locks if available.
- Only use a drawbar and other manufacturer recommended hitch points for attaching trailers.

Maintain equipment:

The inspection and maintenance of equipment is important to keep it running and to prevent worker injury if a rollover occurs.

- Check tractor batteries, fuel tanks, oil reservoirs, and coolant system seals to prevent spillage.
- Inspect and eliminate all sharp edges and corners on equipment.

- Keep foldable ROPS in the up position, unless operating near low-clearance objects or buildings.
- Avoid the use of self-made ROPS, unless they comply with OSHA test procedures and performance requirements.

Safety assistance:

The National Tractor Safety Coalition has a ROPS rebate program that helps offset the cost of purchasing and installing combination ROPS-seatbelt kits. For more information on this and other safety and health-related issues impacting workers, visit www.osha.gov/farmsafety or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877- 889-5627.

