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## TIP-SOP-008 - Using Air Operated Tow Hitch




<b>Sop Title:</b>	Using Air Operated Tow Hitch	<b>Sop No:</b>	TIP-SOP-008
<b>Sop Location:</b>	Multiple	<b>Associated SWMS:</b>	TIP-SWMS-008
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	1/05/2025	<b>Next Review Date:</b>	1/05/2027
<b>Issue Version:</b>	1.0	<b>Authorised By:</b>	Jeremy Wee
<b>Frequency:</b>	When required		
<b>Purpose:</b>	Uncouple and couple truck and dog		
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Tipper driver	<b>Requirements:</b>	UHF radio Maxi park brake alarm Overhead power lines alarm Correct site PPE - High Visibility clothing - Long Pants & Sleeves - Hard Hat - Safety Boots - Safety Glasses - Gloves - Hearing protection if required
<b>Compliance:</b>	PPE Requirements:		
- WHS Act 2011 - WHS Regulation 2017			

Step	Activity	Safety/ Quality/ Performance Notes	Photo
1.	- Arrive at designated uncoupling/ coupling area	- Ensure positive communication - Use designated uncouple/ couple area - If uncoupling on street be mindful of legal parking and not to be blocked in from coupling the dog trailer	

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Step	Activity	Safety/ Quality/ Performance Notes	Photo
2.	Uncouple the vehicle combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure firm and level ground</li> <li>- Ensure truck and dog aligned straight</li> <li>- Perform a tug test</li> <li>- If unsuccessful refer to maintenance reporting system</li> <li>- If successful, continue with uncoupling procedure</li> <li>- Exit vehicle</li> <li>- Ensure to wear gloves</li> <li>- Create safe work zone if required</li> </ul> <p><b>Driver side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lower drawbar support leg</li> <li>- Disconnect air lines</li> <li>- Disconnect ABS/EBC plug</li> <li>- Disconnect hydraulic hose where applicable</li> <li>- Do not step on or over the drawbar</li> </ul> <p><b>Passenger side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disconnect tailgate air lines</li> <li>- Disconnect electrical plug</li> <li>- Disconnect hydraulic hose</li> <li>- Unlock the tow hitch control box</li> <li>- Turn on the red handle</li> <li>- Raise the yellow handle</li> <li>- Check that the tow hitch pin is in up position</li> <li>- If the pin did not raise, enter the cab and gently reverse to release the pressure on the pin then drive forward to separate truck from dog trailer</li> <li>- You can leave the tow hitch control box open while tipping near the dog trailer or to drive through the plant to tip truck off</li> <li>- If uncoupling to run rigid follow the next step</li> </ul>	
3.	De-energising the air operated tow hitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To drive as a rigid, you need to de-energise the air operated tow hitch</li> <li>- Once uncoupled the dog trailer</li> <li>- Exit the cab</li> <li>- Ensure to wear gloves</li> <li>- Lower the yellow handle</li> <li>- Turn the red handle to off position</li> <li>- Close the tow hitch control box</li> <li>- Using the bannister brush, push the tow hitch pin up until you hear a click in the hitch and the pin lowers down</li> <li>- Ensure red safety button is in lock position</li> <li>- Continue as rigid</li> </ul>	

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4.	Couple the vehicle combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reverse up to dog trailer, stopping 1m from the drawbar</li> <li>- Exit the cab and check the height and alignment of the drawbar to the tow hitch</li> <li>- Ensure to wear gloves</li> <li>- May require to lower truck air bags or adjust the height of the drawbar</li> <li>- To lower the drawbar, holding on to the drawbar for balance, have one foot in front of the drawbar support leg and with other leg gently kick the support leg towards your other leg to lower the drawbar</li> <li>- If drawbar too low, using correct manual handling technique, with both hands holding the tow eye, bent knees, use the legs to lift the drawbar to required level</li> <li>- Open the tow hitch control box</li> <li>- Turn on the red handle and turn the yellow handle to raised position</li> <li>- Ensure the pin is in raised position</li> <li>- Then lower the yellow handle so it's ready to engage the tow eye</li> <li>- Enter cab and reverse gently, until audible sound is heard</li> <li>- Perform a tug test to ensure dog trailer correctly coupled</li> <li>- Apply park brakes, turn on park lights and hazard indicators</li> <li>- Exit cab</li> <li>- Ensure to wear gloves</li> </ul> <p><b>Driver side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visually and physically check that the tow hitch pin is in place, safety red button locked in</li> <li>- Ensure to wear gloves</li> <li>- Raise the drawbar support leg</li> <li>- Connect air lines, ABS/ EBC plug</li> <li>- Connect hydraulic hose where applicable</li> <li>- Ensure the hydraulic coupling locking collar is turned ¼ turn</li> <li>- Do not step on or over the drawbar</li> </ul> <p><b>Passenger side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect hydraulic plug</li> <li>- Connect electrical plug</li> <li>- Connect tailgate air lines</li> <li>- Turn the red handle to off position</li> <li>- Lock the tow hitch control box and return key to its storage location</li> </ul>	  
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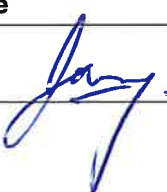
Step	Activity	Safety/ Quality/ Performance Notes	Photo
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Walk around the dog trailer to check clearance light, indicators and brake tail lights</li><li>- Enter the cab</li><li>- If daytime turn off park lights</li><li>- Turn off hazard lights</li><li>- Perform tug test</li></ul>	
5.	Exit designated uncouple/ couple area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Remove safe work zone if set up</li><li>- Exit designated uncouple/ couple area</li><li>- Positive communications</li><li>- Follow site TMP and road rules</li></ul>	

### Prepared By / Review Team

Name	Position	Signature	Date
Marko Kasap	Driver Trainer / Safety Committee Member		1/05/2025
Victoria Piserchia	Supervisor		1/05/2025

### Authorisation

I have checked this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and confirm that it is authorised for use.

Person supervising the work	Signature	Date
Jeremy Wee		1/05/2025