



TRENCH SHIELDING SAFETY GUIDELINES

The use of trench shielding equipment is regulated by federal, state, and local laws. The operator shall be thoroughly knowledgeable of all federal, state, and local regulations or shall be working under the direct supervision of a “Competent Person” trained to comply with such regulations. **Users of this product should not rely exclusively on these Guidelines and must have independent knowledge of safe usage.**

To properly use trench shielding products, the operator or “Competent Person” supervisor must also be thoroughly knowledgeable in the Manufacturer’s Tabulated Data and the safe operation of the specific equipment in use. All users must follow manufacturer instructions.

!WARNING!

- ! A trained Competent Person shall have sole responsibility for the proper selection, installation, assembly, use and maintenance of the trench shielding equipment. The Competent Person shall routinely evaluate soil and site conditions to assure the rated capacity of the shield(s) is not exceeded by the lateral pressure of the soil and any surcharges.
- ! Never allow personnel to enter an excavated area that is not protected (shored, shielded or sloped) according to applicable regulations.
- ! Personnel shall always work only within the protected excavation area and shall not stand or place equipment near the edge of an unprotected excavation. Failure to comply may result in serious injury or death.
- ! Personnel shall not be permitted within or under the shield while it is being installed, removed, or repositioned. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment PPE (such as safety footwear, hard-hats, gloves, etc.) when handling trench shielding equipment.
- ! Daily inspection of all connections, welds, plates, spreaders, and accessories must be performed by the Competent Person. Do not use damaged shields or bent spreaders!
- ! Spreaders are primarily designed to support the trench shield wall panels. Consult Manufacturer’s Tabulated Data and installation instructions for limitations on use.
- ! DO NOT place sheeting or steel plates behind shield walls without specific engineering certification. Such additions may add surcharge loads which exceed the shields rated capacity.
- ! A minimum of four (4) spreaders (two at each end) shall be always pinned in place, using correct spreader pins and keepers. Arch spreaders may replace two standard spreaders when used in accordance with Manufacturer’s Tabulated Data. Only two-spreaders (one at each end) are required on a four-foot-high shield when it is properly stacked on and secured to a base shield below it.
- ! Use proper tag lines to control loads when lifting or assembling trench shields.
- ! All lifting and pulling equipment, including cables, slings, ropes, chains, shackles, and safety hooks must be evaluated for suitability and capacity by the operator and/or Competent Person prior to each use, and continually inspected for damage or defects thereafter. The condition and capacity of such equipment will affect the safe handling and placement of trench shielding products and is the sole responsibility of the customer and the customer’s agents or employees.
- ! Stacked shields shall be inspected daily to assure that each panel is properly positioned and secured to one another using approved stacking pins.

If you are not sure of the proper operation of this equipment, discontinue use immediately and contact: Sunstate Equipment Trench Safety Rentals, Toll Free (USA) at 1-866-823-3319

WE PROVIDE THESE SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES ONLY AS A REMINDER OF CUSTOMARY SAFE PRACTICES

If the recipient of these guidelines is not the designated Competent Person or the sole operator, forward them to such person(s) and or all users who will operate the equipment. SUNSTATE EQUIPMENT TRENCH SAFETY RENTALS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPROPER USE OR MISAPPLICATION OF EQUIPMENT, OR FOR PERSONAL INJURIES, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING THEREFROM.