

Telehandler Attachments: Match the Load Chart

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Why this matters

An attachment that connects to the machine may still lack approval for the intended lift. Capacity depends on the actual configuration and placement, not only the largest number on the machine.

Objective: Match telehandler, attachment and planned placement before lifting.

Key hazards or failure points

Unapproved attachment; wrong chart; unknown load weight; extended reach; insecure connection; unsuitable ground.

Practical controls

- Use a trained, evaluated and authorized operator. Follow the actual machine and attachment instructions and required approvals.
- Match the readable capacity information to the machine, attachment and intended configuration. Resolve load weight, load center and placement before picking up.
- Prepare stable support and the receiving area under the instructions. Keep people outside the handling zone; never use a trial lift to discover capacity.

Verify It in the Field

With the machine safely secured, compare machine and attachment identifiers with the approval and applicable chart. Physical fit alone is insufficient.

Have the operator trace the planned placement on the correct chart using the required configuration inputs. Record the load basis and hold unresolved information.

Complete the prescribed attachment-retention and machine checks safely. Confirm ground, clearances and receiving conditions match the plan before movement.

Stop and reassess

Hold for missing approval, unreadable or mismatched chart, unknown load or changed configuration. Reassess a changed reach, surface or attachment before proceeding; warning devices do not replace capacity planning.

Ask the crew

1. Does this chart match our attachment?
2. How was load weight established?
3. What changes at the receiving position?

Use this HOP tool — Validate assumptions: On paper, list the machine, attachment, load and intended placement. Mark each item supported by current evidence and circle any assumption. Assign the missing verification before lifting; an experienced operator's confidence or a previous successful pickup does not replace the applicable chart.

Sources: OSHA 1926.602, 1926.1400; DOE Vol. 2, pp. 22–23. HOP concepts adapted from DOE-HDBK-1028-2009, Vol. 2 (June 2009). No claim to original U.S. Government work; no government endorsement implied.

Free next step: JHA/JSA planning and field-verification worksheet

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/telehandler-attachments-load-chart