

Working with the Auger Drive Unit exposes the operator and others at the work site to workplace health and safety hazards. The table below describes these hazards and recommendations for their control.

Hazard	Recommended Hazard Controls
Mechanical Hazards	
Damaged hydraulic hoses may eject fluid with enough pressure to penetrate the skin.	Ensure hydraulic hoses are regularly inspected and maintained.
Vehicular accident with persons or property.	Develop a traffic management program for the work site to prevent vehicles, people and property coming into contact.
Entanglement may occur with the rotating auger.	Enforce a 6 meter operating zone around operating plant. Erect barriers as required preventing persons coming into contact with operating machinery. Ensure any work done on the auger, or in close proximity to the auger is carried out while the auger is not in motion and cannot be accidentally put into motion. Use a 'lock out' system to prevent accidental operation of plant while maintenance is carried out.
Pinch points when attaching the auger drive unit, the auger and fitting the locating pins	Ensure hands are kept well clear of the point where the machinery is coming into contact and when using the locating pins. Where possible develop a process where the drive unit and the auger are held in position through jigs or other methods where the use of manual positioning is eliminated or minimised.
Impact with material ejected from plant when changing teeth	If the auger teeth must be removed using force use safety goggles to prevent eye injury.
Non-Mechanical Hazards	
Auger attachment may fall onto persons or property if not attached correctly	Follow the Auger Torque instructions for attachment of the auger. Ensure the attachment is secure before raising or moving.
Tripping hazard if auger and associated equipment is inappropriately stored	Ensure proper housekeeping on the work site. Create a designated storage area for equipment and keep walkways clear.
Electrocution by contact with overhead or underground powerlines and non-insulated nature of the plant item	Ensure site specific hazards are identified and safe methods of work are developed before operation of equipment.

Hazard	Recommended Hazard Controls
Use of oils and lubricants	Many oils and lubricants are hazardous substances. Obtain a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from the supplier or manufacturer for any chemicals used in the operation or maintenance of Auger Torque equipment. The MSDS will indicate if the substance is hazardous and if so, carry out a risk assessment on the use of those substances to identify and control health and safety hazards associated with their use. <i>(Note: Refer to the Code of Practice for Hazardous Substances for further information. Available from www.whs.qld.gov.au)</i>
Noise	Carry out noise level testing of the parent machine/s used with Auger Torque equipment. If the noise levels are above the exposure standard of $L_{Aeq,8h}$ of 85 dB(A) implement a hearing protection program. <i>(Note: Noise assessments should be carried out by a specialist. Refer to the Advisory Standard for Noise for further information. Available from www.whs.qld.gov.au)</i>
Ergonomics	
Manual handling	<p>The use of team lifting is discouraged. Use the hitch to lift the auger drive unit. Implement a system that minimises or eliminates the need to manually lift or move the auger attachment or the drive unit.</p> <p>Risk assessments should be carried out on all manual tasks associated with Auger Torque equipment before they are used. This assessment should identify any manual handling or ergonomic hazards associated with the use of the equipment. Controls to reduce or eliminate this risk should then be developed implemented. <i>(Note: Refer to the Advisory Standard for Manual Handling for further information. Available from www.whs.qld.gov.au)</i></p>
Work Environment	
Working on hot parts	Operation of the equipment may create hot parts. Be aware of hot parts when handling the equipment and use non-slip gloves to protect hands where necessary.
Plant Controls	
Emergency stops	Ensure the parent machine has appropriate emergency stops fitted. Regularly test these to ensure they are working.
Plant Guarding	
Guarding	Ensure any guarding used remains in place and is regularly inspected to ensure serviceability and that it has not been tampered with. Additional guarding can be supplied with the trencher. Carry out risk management to identify if these or any other guarding is necessary to ensure a safety when using the trencher at your workplace.

Hazard	Recommended Hazard Controls
Other	
Licensing of persons operating mobile plant	Ensure persons operating the parent machine are appropriately licensed.
Competency of operators	Ensure persons operating the parent machine and any Auger Torque equipment are appropriately trained and competent.
General operation of plant	<p>Persons in control of plant at a workplace have workplace health and safety (WH&S) obligations under the WH&S Act 1997 to ensure the plant is safe and without risk to health and to ensure a safe workplace.</p> <p>Employers should carry out risk management in relation to plant at the workplace.</p> <p>This includes considerations for inspection, maintenance, repair, modification, servicing and cleaning.</p> <p>Ensure any hazards associated with use of Auger Torque plant at the workplace are identified and controlled.</p> <p>Employees also have obligations under the WH&S Act 1997. Inform employees about their obligation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with instructions for health and safety given by the employer or principal contractor. • Not wilfully or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided to ensure the healthy and safe use of plant at a workplace. • Not to wilfully injure themselves. • To use personal protective equipment if the equipment is provided and properly instructed in its use. <p><i>(Note: Refer to the Advisory Standard for Plant for further information. Available from www.whs.qld.gov.au)</i></p>