



J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 131

TO: ALL OWNERS OF FLETCHER® ROOF DRILLS

**FROM: J.H. FLETCHER & CO.
RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

DATE: June 26, 2018

**SUBJECT: Maximum recommended operating grade for skid steer and crawler
Roof Drills/Bolters**

This Safety Notice outlines J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s ("Fletcher's") recommendations for maximum operating grade for rubber tire skid steer and crawler Roof Drills/Bolters.

Fletcher custom builds machines for special requirements for many customers. Both park and service brake systems may vary greatly due to the custom machine designs and the mine conditions the purchaser specified that the machine was to be operated in. Because of the long-life expectancy of the machines and the potential machines would be transferred or relocated to a mine other than the one it was specifically designed to work in, a machine's braking system could be inadequate for the current conditions where it is being or is desired to be operated.

Before 2012, machine tags did not specify the maximum machine operating grade. This bulletin is to inform owners and users of Fletcher rubber tire skid steer and crawler mounted Roof Drills/Bolters delivered before 2012 of the maximum machine operating grade.

If maintained in original equipment manufacturer condition, your rubber tire skid steer or crawler mounted roof drill/bolter will have spring set hydraulic release park (secondary) brakes as well as hydrostatic brakes through motion control valves for service braking.

All crawler machines except for remote control mobile roof supports were originally equipped with park (secondary) braking systems for at least 25% (14 degrees) grade. If your mine conditions are in excess of this grade contact Fletcher. Crawler mounted remote control mobile roof supports were not originally designed to have and do not have spring set brakes or motion control hydrostatic braking because of the retreat

mining application.

Rubber tire skid steer machines have many variations. For instance, even tire size can have an effect on the maximum operating grade. Using the lowest park (secondary) brake capacity information we have available for any roof bolter, consider your machine grade rated for 9% (5 degrees). In most cases your machine will have a higher maximum operating grade capability but if your machine is not marked with a tag, the maximum grade the machine can be safely and properly used on and exceeding this capacity can result in serious injury or death to a person or property damage.

If you have a machine built prior to 2012 and it is not marked with the maximum machine operating grade, contact Fletcher. Fletcher will provide a sticker tag to affix to the machine with the maximum machine operating grade and operator manual information. All that is required is the serial number.

If your machine has been rebuilt by a non-OEM Fletcher representative, then contact our sales department for information on an inspection or updating of your machine. Fletcher can't determine the maximum operating grade of any the machine has not been maintained with OEM parts or modernized using Fletcher or an authorized representative.

Whenever parking and leaving a machine on a grade, Fletcher recommends that the machine is chocked or turned into a bank or rib. This is standard procedure for equipment used in metal / non-metal mines as stated in 30 CFR 57.14207, and Fletcher recommends this same procedure be followed in coal mines.

If the machine is to be used on a steeper grade than the recommended maximum machine operating grade, contact Fletcher to determine whether the machine can be equipped, such as improving the braking, for the intended purpose.

This bulletin and the information provided should be posted prominently on your mine's bulletin board, placed in the machine mounted operator's manual holder, (staple it to the existing machine operator manual) and provided to all roof bolting machine operators. If you have misplaced or do not have a current operator's manual, contact our Risk Management Department and a new manual specific to your machine's serial number will be provided free of charge.

This information is vitally important for an operator to read, understand and follow. Failure to do so could result in severe injury or death.