



Outrigger Pad User Guide

Introduction

The purpose of any outrigger pad is to transfer the weight of equipment over a large enough area to avoid exceeding the bearing capacity of the substrate it is placed upon. This document is meant to provide some guidance on the proper use of outrigger pads and will not cover every scenario. Outrigger pads do not guarantee the safety of any operation and they should be used in conjunction with the equipment manufacturer recommendations, general safety guidelines and common sense.

General Guidelines

1. Determine the condition of the surface you will be placing the pads on and make improvements if necessary.
2. If the pads are going to be placed on concrete or asphalt, determine the bearing capacity of the surface and use an appropriately sized pad to avoid overloading the surface.
3. When pads are being used on dirt or stone, it must be well drained and compacted.
4. To be effective, pads must be in full contact with the surface below. Never place them over voids, rocks, uneven surfaces or anything else that could create point loads and/or unsafe conditions.
5. When stacking pads or dunnage, always place the units with the largest contact area first, followed by smaller ones.
6. Observe the amount of deflection or bending of the pads underload, never allow that deflection to exceed 1.5”.
7. Pads being pushed into the ground or over deflected creates an unsafe condition and is not acceptable. This is an indication of exceeding the grounds bearing capacity. Correct the situation by increasing the contact area of the pad, decrease the load or improve the bearing capacity of the ground.
8. Always center the load on each pad.
9. Always follow OSHA rules and regulations when using or handling outrigger pads.
10. Always inspect outrigger pads for damage before use and remove any damaged ones from service immediately.
11. Matrax engineered outrigger pads are designed to be light for ease of handling and rigid to efficiently spread loads over their entire surface, they are very effective when used properly but not indestructible.
12. Matrax cannot guarantee the performance of the pads, it has no control over how they are used and recommends that the people using the pads determine what product is appropriate for the application and perform a test to ensure they have made a safe choice.

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One size does not fit all.