



DOHERTY
COUPLERS AND ATTACHMENTS

Snaplock+ Coupler Range

ARE YOU COMPLIANT?

- + Legislation changes take effect 1st April 2014
- + What are the Facts?
- + What is the AS4772-2008?
- + What is the WorkCover NSW Position Paper?
- + What does this mean for you?
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What are the Facts?

All quick hitch couplers must comply with the Australian Standard AS4772-2008. In addition to the AS4772-2008 WorkCover NSW are set to ban semi automatic quick hitch couplers as of 1st April 2014.

This means:

Quick hitch couplers that are of the semi automatic type (have a safety pin) will not be allowed to be fitted as of 1st April 2014.

The Australian Standard AS4772-2008

States: "That ALL quick hitch couplers be fitted with a safety system that ensures retention of the attachment by mechanical positive means in the event of failure of the primary retention system."

"The safety system needs to be intentionally disengaged for the attachment to be disconnected from the quick coupler."

"The safety system shall not be used as the primary retention system and must be in addition to the primary retention system."

WorkCover NSW Position Paper

States: "Supplying or installing semi-automatic quick hitches will be banned from use from 1st April 2014 in NSW". It is likely other states will follow immediately.

What quick hitch is what?

Semi-automatic quick hitch coupler: is a coupler which requires a manually inserted safety pin.

Automatic - detach only: is a quick hitch coupler which prevents attachments falling off but does not prevent swinging in the event the primary system fails or loses retention force. (i.e Front lock only)

Automatic - detach and swing: is a quick hitch coupler that prevents falling off and swinging in the event the primary system fails. (i.e Front and Rear locks in addition to the primary lock).

WorkCover NSW will also review the use of '**Automatic - detach only**' couplers in 2014.

The full WorkCover NSW position paper can be downloaded from www.dohertydirect.net/positionpaper

Contractor Policies:

Many construction companies also have their own onsite safety regulations, many of which specify that your quick hitch coupler MUST:

- Be an **Automatic** and in some cases **Automatic - detach** and **swing** which means:

It shall prevent disengagement of the attachment in the event of loss of or reduction of engagement force and shall ensure that the attachment is retained in the working position. (Bucket does not swing)

Automatic – detach and swing type couplers are often called dual lock or double lock. These dual or double locks are in addition to the primary locking system.

Other International standards:

The British Standard EN474-1 and Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC are also a proficient global standard which is recognised in many countries.

Important:

If your quick hitch coupler allows an attachment to swing on one pin only or releases the attachment in the event of loss of engagement forces, then it DOES NOT meet the EN474 standard or the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC.

The ISO13031 is currently in draft format and we believe it will come into force in the near future.

As the ISO13031 is in draft format we cannot say with 100% certainty what the requirements will be, however we believe one of the safety requirements will be:

The safety system shall prevent disengagement of the attachment in the event of loss of or reduction of engagement force and shall ensure that the attachment is retained in the working position.

Our interpretation of this and our understanding of many large construction site policies is that the quick coupler must be dual locking, i.e lock both front and rear pin and prevent attachments from swinging on one pin in the unlikely event of , loss of engagement force.

What does this mean for you?

Before you buy

- Check that the quick hitch coupler will comply to all standards in force in Australia.
- Check that it complies to all major contractor policies.
- Check that before your final decision, you have considered the installation and maintenance cost of the quick hitch coupler over the length of time it will be working.
- Check if the coupler brand is proven in the Australian market and parts and service are readily available.

After you purchase, what should you expect?

- That your chosen quick hitch coupler supplier can provide you with installation training and operator training.
- Information on replacement parts for field service.
- Your quick hitch coupler should be supplied with a detailed installation and operations manual, in-cab decals and an ID badge compliant to your country's standards.

What are your responsibilities once you are a coupler owner/operator?

- Ensure your quick hitch coupler complies with the standards of your site and your country.
- Ensure your operators are fully informed of the DO's/DONT'S on onsite safety operation.
- You must provide training on the correct/safe use of your quick hitch coupler to all operators.

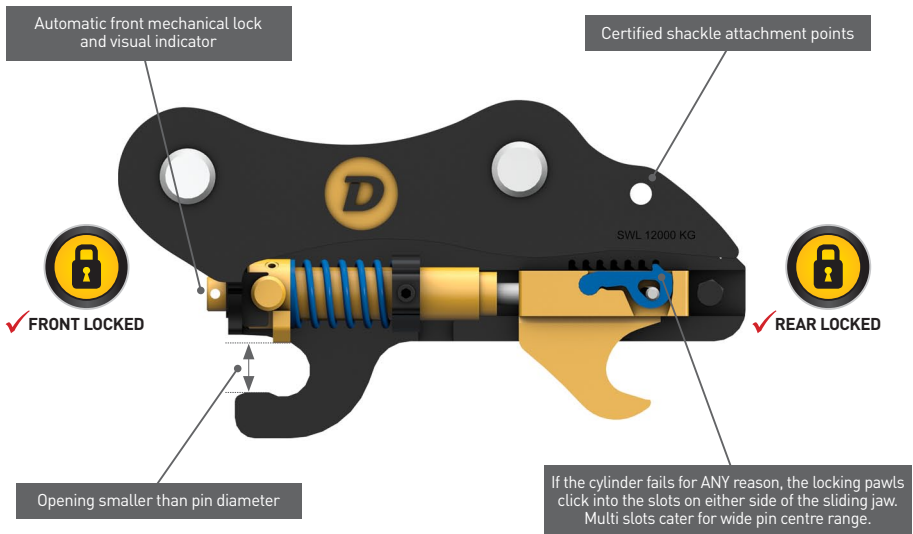
Dispelling the myths

- True dual lock couplers are readily available with a number of brands currently available in the Australian market.
- True dual lock couplers are very competitively priced against front lock only couplers.
- Dual lock couplers in some cases have fewer parts than front lock only couplers.

The Doherty Solution

The Snaplock+ quick hitch coupler incorporates Doherty's patented Dual Pin Locking system (DPL) which locks both the front and rear pins in the event of loss of engagement force. Our Snaplock+ quick hitch couplers are:

- Available for all machines from 2.5 to 120 Tonnes.
- Compliant with Australian Standard AS4772-2008, WorkCover NSW legislation which comes into effect 1st April 2014, European Standard EN474 and to the latest draft of proposed ISO International Standard.
- Simplistic design with minimal moving parts put them at the forefront of couplers worldwide to operate and maintain.
- Manufactured in New Zealand and supported with sales and service Australia wide.
- Working and proven in the Australian market.



Safety first – with the Snaplock+ Coupler



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Snaplock+ Coupler



See it in action