

Bolt croppers - technical information

New policy number: **641**
Old instruction number:
Issue date: **10 December 2008**
Reviewed as current: **14 June 2024**
Owner: **Assistant Director, Property and TSS**
Responsible work team: **Fleet Liaison Engineering and Equipment Team**

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy describes the Bolt Croppers and explains its use and how to test and maintain them.



LFB image id: 595645

2 Description

- 2.1 Manufactured from drop forged steel.
- 2.2 The jaws are short nosed, centre cut type manufactured from high tensile stock and are specially heat treated.

Technical details

- Overall length: 600mm
- Weight: 2.9 kg
- Maximum cutting capacity: 7.9mm

3 Safety precautions

- 3.1 Full structural firefighting PPE (including gloves) should be worn when using this equipment, making sure eyes are protected using the helmet visor.
- 3.2 If after one person applying strong steady pressure on the operating arms it proves impossible to cut the object, another method should be sought.
- 3.3 No attempt should be made to modify the Croppers (i.e. extending the operating arms using additional materials).
- 3.4 Nitrile gloves (available on POMS – V2481/2/3) should be worn when cleaning and maintaining this equipment.

4 Operating instructions

- 4.1 Designed for cutting: high tensile steel rods, bolts, pre-stressed concrete rods, mesh and wire, case hardened chain, cold drawn alloy steel and tempered sprung wire.

5 Maintenance and testing

- On acceptance
- After use
- Daily

- 5.1 On acceptance, after use and daily, the bolt croppers should be inspected, cleaned and maintained as required, they should always be stowed clean and dry.

Cleaning

- 5.2 Clean with warm soapy water, cloth and/or soft brush, rinse with clean water and dry with paper towels.
- 5.3 A light coat of WD-40 (POMS-V2789) can be applied to metal surfaces and wiped clean with a dry cloth but ensure that it is not applied to the handles.
- 5.4 Where contamination of any equipment occurs, the procedures laid down in Policy number 707 - The control of infection and infectious diseases policy should be followed.

Inspection

- 5.5 Check cutting edges of jaws making sure they are not excessively blunted, pitted or defective in any way.
- 5.6 Open and close the bolt croppers ensuring smooth operation of the tool. If stiff, spray WD-40 directly onto the bolts and hinges, wipe away any excess, ensuring it is not on the handles.
- 5.7 When closed check right sized gap between the blades. The gap should be no more than the thickness of a piece of paper and not too tight as excess pressure will damage the blades.
- 5.8 Check all bolts are in place, not loose, damaged or missing.
- 5.9 Any defects should be reported via POMS as per Section 6 below.
- 5.10 There is no longer any need to record test results for the bolt croppers on a Form 426 Standard test card, as this item of equipment is inspected as operationally ready as part of the OE inventory undertaken at change of watch.

6 Defects

- 6.1 The Bolt Croppers (S9028) are available on POMS as a Category B item under the V&E contract.

7 Associated material

- 7.1 To be read in conjunction with the following material where necessary:
- Policy number 540 – Manual handling operations procedure.
 - Policy number 598 – Provision and use of work equipment.
 - Policy number 617 – Personal protective equipment at work procedure.
 - Policy number 707 – The control of infection and infectious diseases policy.
 - Policy number 724 – Appliance inventories and operational readiness.
 - Policy number 985 - Operational safety management - knowledge skills and competence – NOG.
 - Policy number 1000 – Fire contaminants

Document history

Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	19/05/21	SDIA	H - 02/06/21	HSWIA	03/05/18	RA	
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Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/para nos.	Brief description of change.	Date
Throughout	This policy has been reviewed as current. Minor wording change detailed below.	09/12/2011
Page 2 para 4.1	"Firefighting PPE" changed to "Structural PPE".	09/12/2011
Page 1	Responsible work team changed from Engineering Fleet and Equipment Team to Fleet Liaison Engineering and Equipment Team.	29/10/2012
Throughout	Premier FireServe has been updated to 'the service provider.'	12/12/2012
Page 4	'Subject list' table - template updated.	29/01/2015
Throughout	This policy has been reviewed as current. Minor wording changes have been made throughout but no changes have been made to the content.	27/02/2015
Section 7 Section 6	Policies affected changed to Associated material. Service provider changed to V&E contract.	
Throughout	This policy has been reviewed as current. Changes have been made throughout mainly relating to maintenance and testing, please re-read whole document to familiarise yourself.	25/04/2018
Throughout	Policy reviewed as current with minor changes made.	03/06/2021
Throughout	Cross references updated.	24/06/2022
Throughout Section 7	Reviewed as current. PN1000 added to associated material.	14/06/2024

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Bolt croppers	Technical information
Small gear	Equipment - operational

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	FOIA exemption	Security marking classification