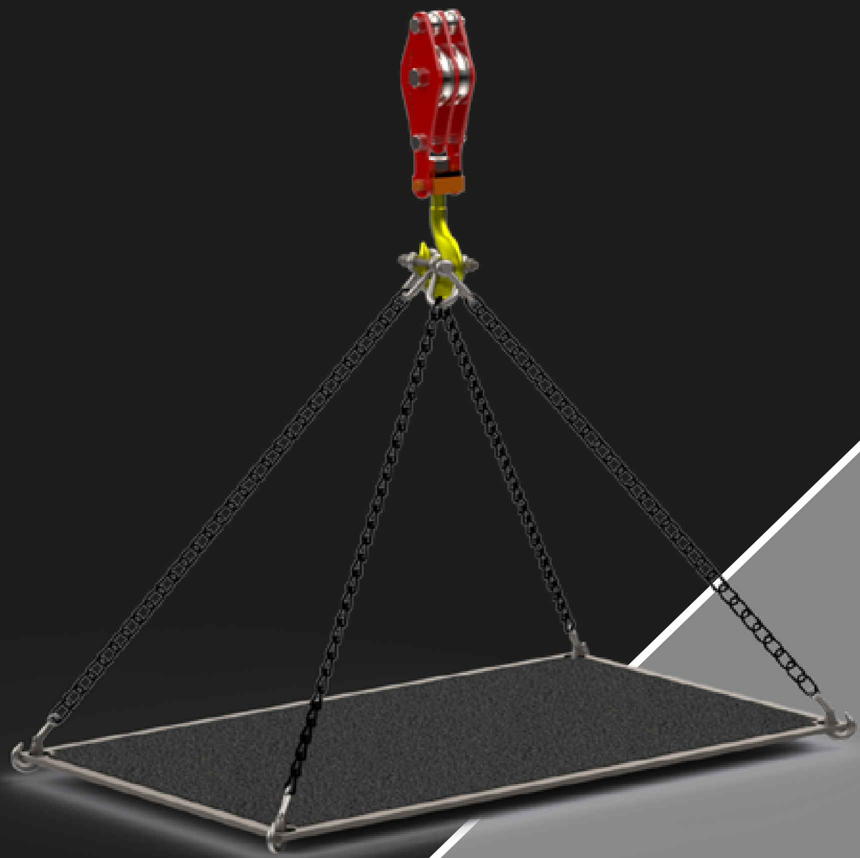
NATIONAL TRENCH SAFETY UK

# ROAD PLATES
# USER GUIDE



# ROAD PLATES USER GUIDE

## Designed to temporarily cover trenches in trafficked areas.

There are many factors to consider when deploying road plates, such as the duration of the works, the type, size and weight of the plates, the installation and removal methods, the type of installation (surface mounted or recessed) as well as the need for additional shoring. Available in one size, 2.4m x 1.2m, NTS standard road plates are supplied in 19mm thick Grade S235 steel with or without anti-skid coating. They are provided with 4 lifting points for use with a 4 leg chain.

**Road plates are heavy and a suitable lifting plan must be in place prior to commencing works.**

**For further details on how to safely use road plates it is recommended to read "Traffic Advisory Leaflet 6/14: Using Road Plates at Road Works" produced by the Department for Transport.**

### Lifting & Transportation

1. **Ensure that equipment is stored on flat level ground.**
2. **Avoid stacking / storing equipment close to pedestrian routes.**
3. **Ensure that all lifting equipment and accessories have a certificate of thorough examination and are visually inspected for damage prior to each use.**
4. **NTS (UK) recommend stacking heights of max. 5No. plates onsite, ensure timber packers separate the plates so they are not stacked directly on top of each other.**
5. **Standard road plates must be lifted using a 4-leg chain, each corner of the plate needs to be made accessible by chocking underneath to attach the chain hooks. Be aware of finger/limb trap hazards during this process. Safe lift road plates must only be lifted vertically, one at a time, using a single leg chain. At no point should any road plate be dragged on the ground or transported using the bucket and blade of the excavator.**
6. **It is essential that no one is in the immediate vicinity during the lifting operation. Road plates must never be lifted over anyone's heads, ensure safe lifting practices are adhered to during every lift.**
7. **Ensure that when plant are tracking whilst lifting road plates that the load is kept low at all times. Take care travelling over uneven ground, always ensure a plant exclusion zone is adhered to.**
8. **It is strongly recommended to fully restrain/secure the road plates to prevent any movement. Each road plate is provided with 4No. corner holes for use with ground anchors. Safe lift road plates feature 30mm diameter holes, while all other road plates feature 50mm diameter holes. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that road plates are sufficiently anchored/restrained prior to use.**
9. **The fixings should not protrude above the surface of the plates to create a hazard to road users, they should ideally have countersunk heads or should not protrude by more than 10mm above the plate.**
10. **If the plates are recessed, it is recommended that any gaps between the road plates and the ground are suitably filled.**

11. If the plates are raised then it is recommended to ensure that a suitable means of transition is implemented.
12. Prior to installation of road plates, it is essential that the ground is assessed for suitability, that the area into which the road plates are to be installed is clear with no trip hazards and capable of taking the weight of the road plates.
13. It is essential that the plates are visually monitored on site for signs of excessive deflection.
14. NTS (UK) recommend that the plates are supported by at least 500mm either side of the trench.
15. Road plates normally need to be placed on bedding material, whether they are surface mounted or recessed, it is recommended that the bedding does not extend fully to the sides of the trench, to avoid directly loading the top edge of the trench.
16. If multiple road plates are used together it is important that the traffic passing over the road plate only passes in one direction at a time and only 1 vehicle has contact with the plates at once.
17. It is recommended to limit the vehicle speed travelling over the plates to no more than 30mph.
18. It is recommended to keep the plates low off the ground during handling operations and to control the lift using a tag line.
19. Take care when handling road plates, especially in windy conditions. In these circumstances it may be necessary to increase the size of the plant exclusion zone.
20. If road plates are to be used to bridge over an unshored trench then shoring should be considered, due to the additional loads induced by the traffic. If road plates are to be used to bridge over a shored trench then the additional loads must be taken into account within the shoring design.

| Description | Material Grade | Anchor Hole Diameter (mm) | Weight (kg) | Anti-Skid Coated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.4m x 1.2m x 19mm Road Plate | S235JR | 50 (min) | 440 | No |
| 2.4m x 1.2m x 19mm Road Plate | S235JR | 50 (min) | 442 | Yes |

Traditional road plates are handled using a 4-leg chain.