12. HANDLING THE RUBBER TRACKS

1) USING THE RUBBER TRACKS PROPERLY

Rubber tracks have some advantages over steel tracks.

However, you cannot take full advantage of them if you use them in the same manner as steel ones. Use care in operating with rubber tracks in accord with the conditions of the work site and the type of work.

Comparison table of rubber and steel tracks

	Rubber	Steel
Low vibration	Excellent	Ordinary
Smooth travel	Excellent	Good
Silent travel	Excellent	Ordinary
Less damage to paved roads	Excellent	Ordinary
Simple handling	Excellent	Ordinary
Susceptibility to damage (strength)	Ordinary	Excellent
Drawber full	Excellent	Excellent

Rubber tracks have many advantages inherent in the unique properties of the material. On the other hand, however, they are low in strength. It is essential that you fully understand the properties of rubber tracks, and observe the precautions for operating and handling them to prolong their life and get the most out of them. Be sure to read this section for using the rubber tracks before using them.

2) WARRANTY FOR RUBBER TRACKS

The rubber tracks are not warranted for free repair or replacement if they are damaged because of misuse by the customer, including the failure to comply with the prohibitions and the instructions for safe operation; (for example, the failure to check the tension of the rubber tracks or service the rubber tracks properly, or "using the rubber tracks on surfaces and terrains which could physically damage them".)

3) PROHIBITIONS FOR USING THE RUBBER TRACKS

- (1) Do not operate or turn on surfaces of terrains that have sharp stones, a hard, uneven rock base, or that expose the tracks to steel rods, scrap iron, or edges of iron plates. Failure to observe these prohibitions may damage the rubber tracks.
- (2) Do not operate the machine on a stony surface like a riverbed. Doing this may damage the rubber tracks by catching gravel in the tracks or may cause the tracks to come off. Forcibly pushing obstacles will also shorten the life of the rubber tracks.
- (3) Prevent the rubber tracks from getting exposed to oil, fuel or chemical solvents. If they are exposed, immediately wipe them. Also, do not travel on roads which have oily surfaces.
- (4) When storing the rubber tracks for a long time period (more than three months), avoid placing them in a place subject to direct exposure to sunlight or rain.

- (5) Do not operate the machine when the tracks will be exposed to heat, (i.e., near an open-air fire, on a steel plate that has been exposed to the blazing sun, or on a hot asphalt road.)
- (6) Never run on one rubber track while the other is held above the ground with the implement. Doing this may damage the rubber track or cause it to come off.

4) PRECAUTIONS FOR USING THE RUBBER TRACKS

Observe the following precautions when operating the machine :

- (1) Never spin-turn on concrete or asphalt roads.
- (2) Do not change course suddenly. Doing this will cause the rubber track to wear early or be damaged.
- (3) Do not turn the machine across a large level gap while traveling . Remember that running over a level gap at a right angle will prevent the track from coming off.
- (4) Slowly lower the machine after it has been lifted above the ground with the implement.
- (5) It is not recommended that the machine be used to handle any materials that become oily after being crushed (e.g., soybeans, corn, rapeseed oil seeds, etc.). After unavoidably using the machine to handle such materials, clean the tracks with water.
- (6) It is not recommended that the machine be used to handle materials such as salt, ammonium sulfate, potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, or superbiphosphate of lime. Handling these materials may affect the core metal adversely. After using the machine to handle such materials, clean the tracks with water.
- (7) Do not operate the machine at the seashore. Doing this may affect the core metal adversely due to the salt content.
- (8) If a rubber track is cracked, it could be easily damaged when exposed to salt, sugar, wheat, or soybeans. Be sure to repair any cracks in the rubber track to prevent rubber chips from getting into the materials being handled.
- (9) Do not allow the rubber track to rub aginst a concrete wall.
- (10) The rubber tracks are prone to slip on snow or on a frozen road. Be careful of skidding when traveling or operating on a slope in cold weather.
- (11) Operating the machine in extremely cold weather will deteriorate the rubber tracks, shortening their life.
- (12) Use the rubber tracks between -25°C to +55°C (-13°F to +131°F) because of the physical characteristics of rubber.
- (13) Be careful not to damage the rubber tracks with the bucket while operating the machine.

5) BE CAREFUL NOT TO COME OFF THE RUBBER TRACKS

Keep the tracks in appropriate tension to prevent them from coming off. If the tension is too low, the rubber tracks may come off under the following conditions. Even if the tension is adequate, take care when operating the tracks under these conditions. Some illustrations in this section can be different from your machine.

 Do not steer the machine at an angle other than 90 degrees across a large level gap created by a curbstone or a rock [approximately more than 20 cm (8")]. Run over a level gap at a right angle only to prevent the tracks from coming off.



(2) Do not steer the machine across a boundary between the flat ground and a slope, while moving backwards. If such travel is not avoidable, slow down the speed.



(3) Do not travel with the track on one side on a slope or on convex ground (causing a machine angle of more than 10 degrees), and with the track on the other side on flat ground, to prevent the rubber track from being damaged. Be sure to travel with the tracks on both sides on the same level surface.



(4) The three cases illustrated above are those which could cause the rubber tracks to loosen. In addition, do not subject machine to such ground conditions as are illustrated in the figure at the right.



HOW THE RUBBER TRACKS COME OFF

(5) When running over a level gap, a clearance is created between the tracks and the track rollers. At this point, the tracks tend to come off.

(6) If the machine is traveling in reverse, clearance may also be created between the track rollers and the rubber tracks, and between the idlers and the rubber tracks, causing the rubber tracks to come off.







- When the machine changes the travel direction while the rubber tracks are blocked sideways by an obstacle or the like.
- ② When the idler and the track rollers are misaligned from the core metal, due to rubber track misalignment.



③ Traveling in reverse under the condition illustrated will cause the rubber tracks to come off.



④ Changing the travel direction of the machine under the condition illustrated will cause the rubber tracks to come off.

