

Ground Breaking News

Well once again Hitachi has launched a new Zaxis range, the 3 Series, and once again they are claiming it to be the best use of technology since sliced bread. Perhaps some people are feeling just a little doubtful about all these 'fabulous ground breaking' claims. So in order to get to the truth, let's take a look at the evidence for these claims, for solid facts always speak volumes.

Background!

Now many would say that Hitachi already has a well respected Zaxis range which is known for its reliability and efficiency, so why do they need a new one? Well aside from the claim that it's always nice to have a shinning new digger, it is also true that Hitachi are continually looking to the future. With stringent emission regulations becoming more and more eminent, Hitachi has already removed that potential problem in their new models. Technology never stops moving forward and neither, it seems, does Hitachi. By looking in detail at some of the new technology that has been incorporated into the 3 series, operators will soon be wondering how they ever managed without them! Hitachi's number one concern is always the operator and this is very evident in the design of the 3 Series. Various modifications have been made to maximise the comfort and enjoyment of the operator while letting the excavator get on with the work.

New and Improved!

The 3 Series strongly focuses on the union of man and machine. Enabling greater precision through the use of finger tip control, Hitachi has been able to increase the control the driver has over the simultaneous operation of the boom and the arm.

Also on the increase is the productivity of the excavator which is up by 10-17%. This is a direct result of the combination of the new powerful Isuzu engine, which I might add complies with European Stage III A emission regulations, and the new HIOS III hydraulic system. This is all supported by the stronger undercarriage and firmer chassis which enhances the durability, stability, residual value and ultimately the overall reliability of the machine.

Now it's certainly nice to know that the machine will work efficiently and be able to carry out its duties, but another important factor is operator comfort! A spacious and fully adjustable seat has been installed in the cab which is enhanced by the 10% increase in legroom. All controls are in easy reach and there is also a comprehensive dashboard and LCD monitor. With increased visibility through the enlarged windows and also the rear view camera, there will certainly be the feeling of having eyes in back of your head!

So it can be seen that modifications have been made to increase the comfort of the operator and the performance of the machine – but does it really work? Let's take a look at the facts!

The Facts

Due to revised recirculation, the operating speed has been increased by 15% and this is not the only increase that can be noted when the new Zaxis is compared against the old:

	Zaxis 250	Zaxis 280	Zaxis 350
Oil Flow	+10%	+13%	+5%
Traction Force	+11%	-	+18%
Swing Torque	+10%	+10%	+10%
Arm Digging Force	-	+14%	+6%

- The excavator's swing device mounting on the main frame has been relocated which reduces the effect of jerking by up to 20%.

Extended Service Intervals (changes required in hours)

Engine Oil	500
Engine Oil Filter	500
Hydraulic Oil:	5000
Hydraulic Oil Filter	1000
Fuel Filter	500

Improved Controllability

		Conventional Zx	New Zx
Stroke	Front Rear	92	60
(mm)	Side	78	50
Force	Front Rear	12	11
(N)	Side	10	11

The Verdict?

Well obviously, everyone will make up their own minds, but it can definitely be said that here is a machine whose facts speak for itself! And perhaps Hitachi's claim of using ground breaking technology is not actually exaggerated! With this thought in mind Hitachi took the precaution (in case anyone should be so taken with the new 3 series yet not be the rightful owner) that there has been a theft deterrent device installed. This means that the machines won't start unless the correct pin code is entered, so it looks like the only things to be walking will be the thieves! It would seem then that Hitachi have thought of everything, but, in order for this to be a true critique and show a completely unbiased opinion, there is one thing I think Hitachi have forgotten in the 3 Series –next time could they possibly come with fluffy dice already installed?

For more information on the new 3 Series range, please contact;
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