



5 Star rating for agricultural and construction plant

The existing security problem
With a few notable exceptions, the majority of new agricultural and construction plant sold into the UK market does not include any significant levels of security built in as standard. Unlike new cars, for example, there is no UK or EU legislation which requires new plant to be fitted with unique identification numbers and immobilisers. The security problem is further aggravated by the practice of the majority of manufacturers of using a common ignition key.

Once new plant is sold into the market place, further security problems occur. As most plant is used off-road, there is no requirement for the fitting of number

plates. The DVLA does maintain an off-road register for vehicles, but there is no legal requirement to register off-road plant.

It is therefore possible to steal many types of plant by simply driving these vehicles away using the same key. It is very difficult to recover stolen plant because they do not have any unique identification and there is no central database which contains the relevant details.

Plant Theft Action Group

These problems were first identified by the Plant Theft Action Group (PTAG), which formulated a Code of Practice for Agricultural and Construction Manufacturers in 1997/8.

The Code of Practice recommended the following minimum measures of protective security be incorporated into products as part of their original specification:

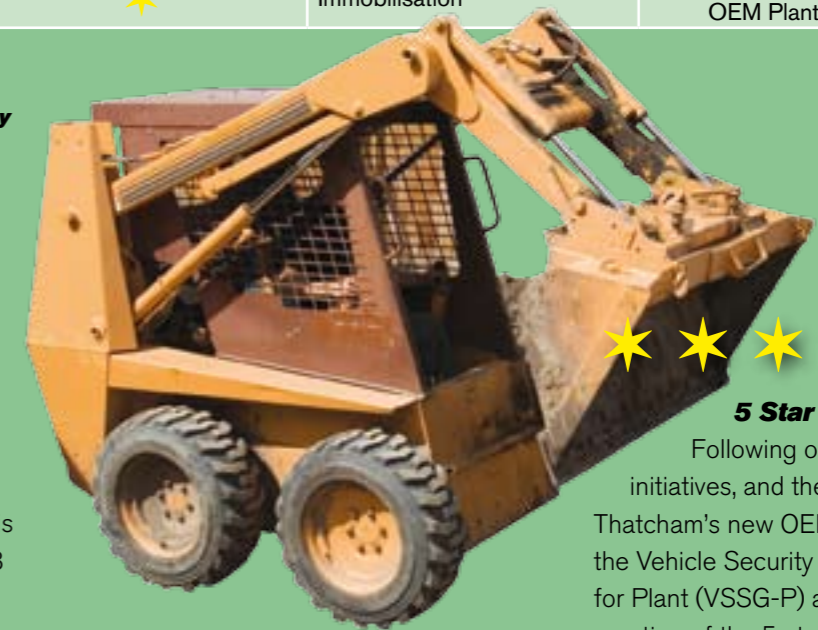
- VIN/PIN – 17 character alphanumeric Vehicle Identification Number to World Manufacturers Identifier (WMI) or 17 character alphanumeric Product Identification Number to ISO 10261: 2000;

	Stars	Functionality	Requirement
Mandatory	★	Vehicle Identification Number, Registration Covert Markings	CESAR
Mandatory	★	Keys – a unique key for each vehicle. This may be the immobiliser key	Thatcham OEM Plant Criteria
Mandatory	★	Immobilisation	Thatcham OEM Plant Criteria
Optional	★	Perimeter security Cabs with lockable doors and windows	Thatcham OEM Plant Criteria
Optional	★	After-Theft System for Vehicle Recovery. This may include additional functionality such as fleet management.	Thatcham Cat 5

The recommended minimum star rating for standard fit security for new plant is:

Mandatory	★	Vehicle Identification Number, Registration Covert Markings	CESAR
Mandatory	★	Keys – a unique key for each vehicle.	Thatcham OEM Plant Criteria
Mandatory	★	Immobilisation	Thatcham OEM Plant Criteria

**By Martyn Randle
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5 Star Rating

Following on from the previous initiatives, and the drafting of Thatcham's new OEM Plant Criteria, the Vehicle Security Steering Group for Plant (VSSG-P) approved the creation of the 5 star rating for plant.

This new plant rating brings the:

- PTAG Code of Practice
- Construction Equipment Security And Registration Scheme
- The British Insurance Industry's Criteria for Plant Security Criteria

This creates a simple but effective guide to standard fit security for:

- Plant Manufacturers/insurers
- Plant users

- Other markings – a number to be applied as a covert mark on major component parts. The minimum number is 6 major parts (category A - B equipment), 2 major parts (category C - F equipment);
- Keys – a unique key for the driving function. This may be the immobiliser key;
- Perimeter security – cabs with lockable doors and windows;
- Immobilisation;
- Physical restraints; and
- Registration – a register of ownership with a recognised company.

CESAR

(Construction Equipment Security And Registration Scheme)

Devised by PTAG to address the concerns regarding vehicle identity specified in the original code of practice, CESAR is a unique security and registration scheme for agricultural and construction plant. It was launched in April 2007 with the active support of the plant insurers who, since the launch, have been actively recommending the use of CESAR to plant manufacturers.