

Standard Plumbing Practices Kobelco

Summating Jaw Open/Close

When installing a shear or other attachment that requires 2 pump flow onto a Kobelco excavator, the bucket circuit and auxiliary circuit are typically summated to achieve 2 pump flow, and dual excavator control valves lessen the back-pressure on jaw open/cylinder retract. The bucket circuit must be oriented so the rod/retract side of the bucket circuit goes to the rod/retract side of the shear cylinder.

If this orientation is not followed, there will be excessive back-pressure while opening the jaw, because the shear bore side oil is close to double that going into the cylinder rod side to retract it. The restricted cut in the excavator rod spool will cause a restriction to the large volume of oil trying to push through from the bore side of the shear cylinder.

Measuring oil pressure at the GB port of the regen valve will show pressures in the 2000-3000 psi range while the jaw is opening if the circuit orientation is not correct. When orientation is correct, this pressure will usually be in the 1000-1500 psi range.



The bucket and auxiliary port reliefs on the excavator control should be individually set to 100-200 psi above main system pressure. In some cases, it may be necessary to install high-pressure port reliefs in the auxiliary circuit, as some only have mid-range port reliefs that cannot be set to accommodate full system pressure.

The corresponding auxiliary lines on the boom need to have their pilot lines teed into the bucket pilot lines so the bucket and auxiliary circuit flow as one. If there is an issue with spiking when flow is reversed while the cylinder is dead-headed in either direction, you may need to install a simple adjustable inline flow control in the bucket pilot lines to slow the excavator spool shift and pump initiation.

Slowly reduce the flow through the flow control, just until the spiking is eliminated from the circuit. Single line plumbing can be custom installed if the two spools/circuits are manifolded together at the base of the boom. If single lines are used, they must be at least -20 on machines 300 class and lower (150 gpm and less) and -24 on 400 class machines (over 150 gpm).

This document is a quick reference only. It does not replace the product safety and operator's manuals, which must be followed by all operators and maintenance personnel.

Rotation Plumbing

Rotation plumbing on most Kobelco machines must be accomplished by installing a flow divider between a main pump and the excavator main control valve. This must have load sense and go through an auxiliary valve that has flow, pressure, and directional capability. This system is usually acquired through a dealer or hydraulic kit manufacturer such as HKX, HCT or Hudco. These kit manufacturers can also help with open/close summation plumbing as well as case drain set up.

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