

Important changes to PTO Drive Shafts

Power Take-Off (PTO) drive shafts transfer mechanical power between the tractor and the implement. Due to the potential dangers when operating, manufacturers must comply by the **EN 12965 Standard** which specifies safety criteria for the design and construction of shafts and their guards.

The latest requirements by the **EN 12965 Standard** have been introduced to greatly reduce the risk of entanglement with the shaft and will be applicable to all primary PTO shafts produced from 2021 onwards (secondary shafts will not be affected). Push pin yokes on primary PTO drive shafts will no longer be allowed. Manufacturers have also conducted new tests to thoroughly assess entanglement risks and ensure their products conform to these new requirements. There will also be additional markings on the guards and further safety information included in the instruction manuals.

Exceptions to this new regulation include:

- If the use of a tool is required to lock the PIC yoke (clamp bolt and flange yokes are still allowed)
- Where a torque limiter, over-run clutch or similar component is fitted on the power input connection (machine/ implement end)

All new versions of all PTO shafts supplied by Sparex will comply with this recent change. As a distributor, Sparex can still sell existing stock of PTO drive shafts produced prior to this new requirement before selling new versions. Similarly, if an older version of a shaft is broken it is allowed for a customer to replace its components like-for-like.

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