

New ZW80 shows how Hitachi thinks big for small loaders



Hitachi is ready to make its mark on the compact loaders industry with some big thinking behind the new model ZW80.

Landscapers and rental fleets welcomed last year's initial offering of reflagged compact machines from Hitachi Construction Machinery Loaders America Inc., but now Hitachi engineering incorporates these compact models fully into its wheel loader fleet.

The ZW80 leads off the new line-up with a solid 63 hp Kubota engine and hydrostatic drive behind a standard bucket with 1.2 yards heaped capacity. Topped with a clean, well-ventilated comfort cab, the ZW80 is built to ensure that both the machine and the operator can deliver maximum production year-round. The ZW80 also brings in some high-end features from Hitachi's full-size loaders, including a strong center-pin area, clean selective catalytic reduction emissions technology and "eco mode" fuel savings.

Reaching for the top

Weighing in at 12,220 pounds, the ZW80 is rated to hoist loads up to 3,587 pounds with enough reach to fill full-size dump loads. Small but mighty, the ZW80 hits with 8,280 pounds of break-out force, backed by easy access to extra torque with its manually locking differential. It's mighty quick, too – in fact, the ZW80's top speed of 21.1 mph makes it the fastest running loader in its class.

Simple and durable

The ZW80 reaffirms Hitachi's goal of building machines that are simple but durable. This focus is especially clear in the strength of its center-pin area, where designers have provided robust support structures along with large pins and bearings. Overall, it shows a very clean design intended to make everyday operation easier. Greasing the rear oscillation is a notoriously dirty and difficult job for

small loaders working in farm and snow removal applications. The ZW80's remote zerk fittings for the rear oscillation eliminates the need to crawl under the machine at the end of a long day.

Service is simpler, and safer, with the ZW80's oil-impregnated bushings, providing a built-in reserve of lubricant to get through hot days and extended hours. The side-by-side arrangement of the aluminum radiator and aluminum oil cooler provide easy access for maintenance and cleaning. While a universal attachment coupler is optional, Hitachi has chosen to make a hook-type coupler standard on the ZW80, anticipating more rugged applications. Emissions controls on the ZW80 are also simple, using a new diesel oxidation catalyst and selective catalytic reduction system to eliminate costly diesel exhaust fluid and its regeneration cycles from its service schedule.

Built for the operator

Where the ZW80 really outshines is in the comfort and control features provided for the operator. It comes with the fully enclosed, well-sealed cab as standard. The walk-through type cab provides easy access from right or left, with safety handrails and large steps mounted on both sides. Its sound-insulated design provides a quiet work environment, complemented by the low-noise engine, hydraulics and the rubber-mounted enclosure frame. The floor-to-ceiling tinted glass window allows exceptional visibility to the front, while pillarless design ensures an unobstructed view to the rear. Sliding side windows and

lock-back doors open up wide for flow-through air ventilation, while air conditioning is offered as an option.

The loader's adjustable suspension seat cushions against shocks and vibration. The extra wide three-inch seat belt, also standard, adjusts to an extra comfortable fit. All Hitachi loaders feature an oscillating axle to handle irregular terrain, maintaining a smooth ride and stable load-carrying. A wrap-around counterweight creates a lower center of gravity, increasing stability while loading or traveling.

The ZW80's simple controls include a full suite of audible and visual service alerts. A switch within easy reach of the hydraulics joystick

instantly engages the diff lock for a boost of power on demand. The inching pedal allows the machine to decelerate while the engine remains at higher rpm and also provides positive braking at the bottom of the pedal stroke. Auto-mode is also onboard, including an automated on-off function that responds to the machine's travel speed and prevents unnecessary pitching. When the loader is doing lighter work, the operator can simply switch to Hitachi's new eco mode. The ZW80 is the smallest machine in Hitachi's wheel loader line to include eco mode, which reduces rpm and cuts fuel consumption by about 10% when its full power is not required. ■



Excellent visibility

- Pillarless design offers unobstructed visibility
- Front floor-to-ceiling windows
- Lower cab window provides panoramic views

Low noise level in cab

The cab is sound insulated, integrating a highly sealed design. The low-noise engine, rubber-mounted operator frame and hydraulics contribute to reduced decibel levels.



Adjustable suspension

The standard seat offers a long-stroke suspension system that absorbs shocks and vibrations.

Walk-through cab

The walk-through type cab allows for easy access from either side. The flat floor enables easy cleaning.



Easy-to-read monitor gives data at a glance.