

# COMPACT SKID-STEER LOADER

Bobcat has launched the new generation S450 skid-steer loader, building on the success of the S130 model it replaces. The new model combines the advantages found on the larger Bobcat new generation models.

The compact, S450 skid-steer loader can be supplied with a comprehensive choice of 48 different products and attachments, offering solutions for a wide range of applications. Like the larger models, the S450 skid-steer loader offers improved comfort and visibility to allow for greater control and accuracy in tight working spaces. In addition, for the first time in a skid-steer loader model in this size class, it has a fully pressurised cab with air-conditioning as an option. Other key features include increased hydraulic performance and efficiency; a new tailgate design; integrated rear bumper and enhanced serviceability.

The new S450 cab has been designed to maintain the loader's compact size, whilst providing the operator with better comfort and control.

The internal area of the cab has been increased by 10% compared to the S130 model, resulting in more space around the operator. Moving the cab side windows to the outside of the cab has contributed to the increase in interior space and has also made them easier to clean. The threshold of the cab door has been lowered and the size of the cab door opening has been increased, making it easier for operators to enter and exit the cab.

Bobcat's best-in-class cab pressurisation system is based on a one-piece seal that goes all the way around the door, increasing pressurisation, to minimise the dirt and dust that may enter the cab. Heating performance has also been increased and the controls are fully illuminated so the temperature settings can be chosen in low light conditions.

All-round visibility has increased by 30% compared to the cab on the S130 model. This is further enhanced owing to a 45% larger door and a lower front cross member. New front working lights contribute to improved forward visibility with a 50% increase in output (total wattage).

The roof window has increased by

40% compared to the S130 model. The side and rear windows also offer more visibility and the lower side screen has been enlarged by 16% to improve visibility to the tyres. The rear screen and cooling package have also been lowered.

Together with a 14% larger rear window, this new design significantly improves visibility to the rear of the machine.

Hydraulic performance has been increased with an increase in system pressure and changes to the hydraulic components and hose and tube line routings. These have been designed to allow the use of straight fittings instead of adjustable fittings (45° or 90°). The number of hydraulic connections has also been reduced. These changes improve overall efficiency and also eliminate routing variation as well as reducing potential rubbing and leak points.

The new tailgate has a shorter vertical height and stiffening pockets to provide optimal strength whilst maintaining a slimmer fit. This allows the use of a tailgate protector integrated into the machine's mainframe.

The exhaust muffler is mounted

directly to the engine, without a flex element to reduce noise and vibration. Refuelling of the loader in a transport position is now easier with the tailgate door opening to the left.

To complete the compact package, serviceability and uptime protection have been improved with features from the larger models. The oil cooler and radiator are now a combination unit that provides a cleaner cooling environment less likely to trap debris and to aid routine cleaning. The holes in the rear screen are also smaller to keep more debris out of the cooler.

The main hydraulic filter is a long life (cartridge type) filter and the filter replacement intervals have doubled to 1 000 hours. The hydraulic sight gauge is mounted under the rear screen and is easily visible during routine checks to help the operator quickly check hydraulic oil levels.

Increased electrical protection is provided by dedicated fuses for individual circuits that are mounted in an easily accessible box near the battery. Battery access is increased and battery protection from debris and heat is improved with the use of a dedicated cover.

Drive belt tension is now dictated by an automatic (torsion spring) tensioner. This requires adjustment only to the stop plate and avoids belt tension adjustment.

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