



# Plant Theft – A Major Risk to UK Businesses

Allianz Insurance plc | Engineering

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## **Plant theft is on the increase.**

Current estimates say that it costs the UK £1million each week\* and this is predicted to rise. Although the cost of replacing the stolen property is often insured it is the uninsured cost of downtime and idle crews along with the affect of increased insurance premiums that could have a serious affect on the profitability of some UK businesses.

### **The challenge**

Historically manufacturers have not fitted security devices to plant. It is common to find a £60,000 excavator, without any form of reliable security, being left overnight on an open contract site! Equally, a significant amount of driven plant is not road registered and often manufacturer markings are either difficult to find or easy to remove.

This means that, not only is it easy to steal high value items of driven plant, the lack of proper identification mean Police have little chance of accurately identifying rightful ownership should they suspect an item has been stolen.

**There are several steps that can be taken to help protect against plant theft:**

#### **Step One**

Uniquely identify and register your plant.

#### **Step Two**

Fit robust physical security devices that are Police/Insurer approved.

#### **Step Three**

Work with the Police to beat the thieves.



## Step One – Plant Registration and Identification:

CESAR (Construction Equipment Security and Registration) is a covert and overt identification and registration system for plant that includes:

- **Registration service** – construction plant items will be registered on a central database with a secure 24/7 call centre. It provides automatic entry onto the DVLA off road register where appropriate.
- **Security marking** – overt bonded triangular shaped unique security markings combined with advanced RFID and data dot technology covertly applied to the plant and enabling immediate identification of ownership by all UK Police forces who are equipped with handheld data scanner/readers.
- **Registration document** – Police approved form of documentation showing proof of ownership.

### Did you know?

- At least 10 items of plant are stolen every day
- 24 hours after a theft has taken place most stolen plant is in a container ready to be taken outside the country
- Theft and malicious damage account for 63% of all plant claims

For more information, please visit  
[www.cesarscheme.org](http://www.cesarscheme.org)

CESAR has been proven to deter theft, however where plant is left unattended on contract sites, additional physical security devices are essential to limit the potential for unauthorised movement.

## Step Two – Physical Security Devices.

### Point of Manufacture Theft Prevention:

Thattham has developed a security rating system for plant manufacturers. It awards “security stars” for Thattham tested security devices proven to resist theft.

The security star rating provides an indication of the level of anti-theft protection based on five key security features:

5 Star Rating	Vehicle identification & registration	3 Star Rating
	Unique Key	
	Category P2 Immobilisation device	
	Peripheral security	
	Category P5 After-theft tracking systems	

A 3 Star Rating is viewed by the Construction Industry Theft Solutions (CITS) group as a sensible minimum requirement to insist upon when purchasing new driven plant. JCB are the first manufacturer to sell plant certified with a 3 Star Rating, however, there are thousands of items in current use without any form of reliable security at all. CITS therefore recommend that Aftermarket Theft Prevention devices are fitted to shadow the 3 or 5 Star Rating\*\* as detailed below.

### Aftermarket Theft Prevention:

CITS strongly recommend that all driven items are, as a minimum, CESAR Registered and fitted with a Thattham approved Category P2/P3 electronic and mechanical immobilisation system. Where feasible, installation of a Thattham Category P5 Telemetric Tracking system is also viewed as a sensible and necessary measure for high value driven items. Details of Thattham approved devices can also be found on the Thattham website, [www.thattham.org.nvsvr](http://www.thattham.org.nvsvr)

## Step Three –

### The Plant and Agricultural Intelligent Unit

The Plant & Agricultural Intelligence Unit (PANIU) has been set up by the Metropolitan Police. It provides a national focal point to tackle plant theft. Insurers and CESAR are working together to establish a UK database of stolen plant. This information will be shared internationally via links with INTERPOL.

\* Facts advised by Home Office Construction & Agricultural and Plant Security Guidance Document 50/07

\*\* A number of manufacturers also qualify for a 1 and 2 Star Rating please refer to the Thattham website [www.thattham.org.nvsvr](http://www.thattham.org.nvsvr)



Together, the PANIU and CESAR are having a positive effect on plant crime with recovery rates on stolen equipment doubling since the setting up of the PANIU in October 2008.

The PANIU are raising the profile of the Plant Theft problem with all regional Police forces, bringing a consistent and focused approach to tackling this form of organised crime and breaking up and arresting the domestic and international gangs responsible.

## Ways to reduce plant theft

- ✓ Risk assess your operations and apply appropriate security measures following the CITS Code of Practice at [www.cits-uk.org/code.php](http://www.cits-uk.org/code.php)
- ✓ Ensure plant is properly identified and registered using the Police approved CESAR system
- ✓ Where feasible seek to purchase new plant with a minimum 3 Star Thatcham Rating or retrofit to a similar aftermarket standard.

## Together we will crack it

Most insurers of contractor's plant offer generous premium and excess discounts to new and existing customers with a good claims history which itself has been generated by a voluntary and proactive approach to management of their theft risk. Risks presented to insurers are normally each underwritten on their own merits giving consideration to the positive risk protection features highlighted in this leaflet.

If you have any information on the theft of plant or require advice, please contact the PANIU on:

Tel: 0207 230 7290

Email: [paniu@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paniu@met.pnn.police.uk)

or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

