TRANSXPRESS



PRACTICAL GUIDE · PARTS AND MAINTENANCE

OEM, equivalent or aftermarket parts for mining machines in Guinea: how to choose

On a mine, a stopped machine often costs more than the missing part. To replace a part, the buyer can choose between several families: OEM part, equivalent part, aftermarket part or remanufactured part. None is good or bad in itself; it all depends on the part, the machine and the risk the operation accepts.

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01 What should you choose, in short?

For safety parts and major components (braking, steering, engine, transmission, main hydraulics), favour the OEM part or an equivalent part of proven quality, especially if the machine is under warranty. For consumables and wear parts (filters, bucket teeth, blades, standard hoses), an equivalent or aftermarket part from a good source can work, provided it is traceable and meets the manufacturer's specification.

02 The four families of parts

- OEM part: sold under the machine manufacturer's brand, with its part number and warranty. It is the benchmark for quality and fit.
- Equivalent part (OEM quality): made by a manufacturer that also supplies the machine maker, or by a recognised manufacturer, sold under its own brand to the same specification.
- Aftermarket part: made by a third party to fit the machine; quality ranges from very good to poor depending on the maker.
- Remanufactured part (exchange unit): a used component restored through a defined process (engine, pump, gearbox, cylinder), often supplied against return of the old component.

The same part number can therefore exist in several versions, at very different prices and availability. Ask the supplier to state, for each line of its offer, the family of the part, the manufacturer and the origin: two offers can only be compared if they cover the same family.

Remanufactured parts deserve particular attention: their quality depends on the restoration process (parts replaced, tests, warranty given). Ask for the details of that process and a written warranty before accepting one for a major component.

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03 Ranking parts by criticality

Before discussing price, rank the parts with the maintenance department. A simple grid is often enough.

- Safety parts: braking, steering, restraint systems, cab protection. Human risk comes first; the price gap does not justify the uncertainty.
- Major components: engine, transmission, axles, hydraulic pumps and valves. A failure stops the machine for a long time and can damage other components.
- Wear parts and consumables: filters, seals, teeth, blades, belts, common hoses. They are replaced often; quality is compared on cost per operating hour.
- Comfort or body parts: wider room for choice.

> The right indicator is not the unit price but the cost per operating hour, plus the cost of an unplanned machine stoppage.

04 Machine warranty and maintenance contracts

On a recent machine or one covered by a maintenance contract, the warranty terms may require OEM or approved parts, and compliant oils and filters. Fitting another part can void the warranty on the component concerned, or beyond.

- Reread the warranty terms and the maintenance contract before switching to another family of parts.
- Keep proof of every job: part number, date, machine hours, invoice.
- When in doubt, ask the machine seller or the maintenance provider for written confirmation.

05 Traceability and counterfeits

An equivalent or aftermarket part is only reliable if you know where it comes from. Counterfeits exist for machine parts as elsewhere: imitated packaging, copied markings, lower-grade material.

- Always start from the OEM part number and the machine serial number.
- For a non-OEM part, ask for the manufacturer's cross-reference to the OEM part number.
- Require the manufacturer's name, the country of origin and, where possible, a certificate of conformity or material certificate.
- On receipt, check the packaging, markings, dimensions and appearance against a known part.
- Set aside offers priced far from the market without a clear explanation.

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06 Importing parts into Guinea

The tariff classification of a part depends on the part itself, not on the machine: a filter, a cylinder, a bearing or a tyre do not fall under the same heading of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). The invoice should therefore describe each part precisely, with its part number, rather than a single line "spare parts".

- An invoice itemised by part number eases classification and limits value disputes.
- For a remanufactured part, the invoice must say so clearly: a description suggesting a new part causes problems at inspection.
- The applicable regime (ordinary regime or a special regime under a mining agreement) depends on your situation: check it with your forwarder before shipment.
- For an urgent part, air freight avoids waiting for a vessel; group several part numbers in the same shipment where possible.

07 What we do for you

TransXpress consults suppliers for each part number, presents OEM, equivalent or aftermarket options with their origin, buys on your behalf, then ships and clears the parts to your site. Send us the list of OEM part numbers, the machine model and serial number, and the quantities.

? Frequently asked questions

Is an aftermarket part necessarily poor quality?

No. Some third-party manufacturers make very good parts. The risk comes from untraceable parts: with no identified manufacturer and no cross-reference to the OEM part number, it is better to pass.

Can you fit a non-OEM part on a machine under warranty?

It depends on the warranty terms and the maintenance contract. Check them before fitting and ask for written confirmation when in doubt.

What is an exchange unit?

A used component restored through a defined process, delivered to replace the worn component, which is often returned to the supplier.

General information guide written by TransXpress. Customs rules and procedures change: every file is checked against the documents and the regulations in force. This guide is neither a quotation nor a commitment.

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Procurement, freight forwarding and customs, heavy transport and equipment rental in Guinea.

TransXpress supports mining, industrial and construction operators in Guinea and on the corridors to Mali and Sierra Leone. A name, a number and a few words are enough: we call you back within 24 business hours.

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