

SAFE WORK PROCEDURES BRUSH CUTTER



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Only those persons who have been instructed in the safe use of and who are authorised to do so are to operate brush cutters.

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. Pre-start checks	Fire	Smoking should not be allowed in the vicinity of petrol-fuelled equipment. Refuelling should be carried out in a clear space away from the work area. Use funnel or pourer to fill with fuel – avoid spillage or overfilling.	No smoking or ignition sources.
2. Operation	Flying objects Noise Vibration	Cords will cause debris to be thrown from cutting head – use guards. Lower limbs require protection – the type of task will determine what type of protection is most suitable, from sock protectors to long trousers and leggings. Prevent unauthorised entry into areas where brush cutters are being used. Noise levels are mainly at top end of safe range – use of low attenuation protectors (i.e., ear plugs) is recommended for user comfort. Some vibration will be felt even where rubber handgrips are provided.	Always wear eye protection. Wear protective clothing. Type 1 protective footwear. Keep persons clear of work area. Wear hearing protection if using machine for long periods. Wear cotton pile or leather gloves.
3. Refuelling and servicing	Fire	Allow machine to cool before refuelling – carry out other tasks first. Always refuel in clear space away from the work area. No smoking or ignition sources in the vicinity of fuel or the refuelling area.	No smoking or ignition sources.
4. Use of cutting blades	Severe cut injuries	Always stop machine before attempting to clear grass, etc, from blade area. Always wear harness and attach machine before commencing cutting. Always cut on left side of blade so that machine pulls away from user. Always use with supplied guard fitted to machine.	Wear leather gloves when handling rough or sharp objects.
5. Maintenance	Fire	Air filter should be cleaned at least daily in dusty conditions. Inspect spark plug weekly, clean, and replace if necessary. Grease cutter head on shaft at least weekly. Check for loose screws and bolts, tighten if necessary. Check starter cord for wear or damage.	No smoking or ignition sources. Keep cutter head lubricated. Replace worn, damaged or missing parts.

PRECAUTIONS:

The following precautions are to be observed in areas where these procedures are carried out.

