

# SAFE WORK PROCEDURES

## LAWN MOWER



### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. While no specific requirements exist for training of operators, users of more complex types of mowers should be instructed in any precautions necessary in their use.
2. Mowing operations should not be carried out while other persons are in the immediate vicinity.

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. Pre-start inspection	Cuts  Risk of fire	Inspect wheels – should run freely without being loose on the axle. Check height adjusters for correct operation. Check air filter – brush any grass and loose dust from surface. Test controls – should move freely with no binding. Check underside of deck- clear built up “mud” and grass, clear catcher or ejection chute. Inspect blades – replace if necessary. Check oil level (4-stroke engines only) – top up if below lower mark. Fill tank with appropriate fuel or fuel mixture.	Wear <b>leather gloves</b> when handling rough or sharp objects.  Always replace mower blades in pairs (opposite sides). <b>No smoking or ignition sources.</b>
2. Starting mower	Cuts, lacerations	Always start machine on a clear, level surface free from debris. Prime carburettor, adjust choke and throttle to start position, switch ignition to “ON”. Keep feet clear of sides of mower deck (foot may be placed on deck to steady if necessary). Use steady, quick pull on cord to start – do not pull cord to extreme end. Allow motor to warm up before placing under heavy load.	
3. Operating mower	Foreign object in eye Noise Cuts, lacerations Vibration  Flying objects  Dust Emptying catcher	Grass, dust, debris will be ejected from mower during operation. Some mowers may generate noise levels approaching harmful levels. Objects thrown from mower (e.g., broken blade) can cause severe foot injury. Leather or cotton-pile gloves should be used if vibration is a problem. (If vibration is severe, turn mower off and inspect for blade damage or loose or missing bolts, etc.). Objects struck by mower can be thrown long distances – area must be kept clear of other persons – preferably mow at time when area is unoccupied. Use of dust mask may be necessary when working in dry or dusty conditions. Ensure that mower is in a safe, level position, reduce throttle to idle, remove and replace catcher whilst standing at side of mower	Wear <b>eye protection</b> . Wear <b>hearing protection</b> . Wear <b>Type 1 footwear</b> . Wear <b>hand protection</b> .  <b>No unauthorised entry</b> into work area.  Wear <b>P1 particulate dust mask</b> . Observe correct manual handling practices.
4. Refuelling	Risk of fire	Turn mower off and allow motor to cool down before refuelling. Avoid spillage – use funnel or spout to fill fuel tank – do not overfill mower tank. Ensure that fuel cap is refitted correctly and firmly tightened. Fuel should be kept in shaded place or area out of direct sunlight and away from ignition sources..	<b>No smoking or ignition sources when refuelling.</b> <b>Ensure that fuel cap is kept clean.</b> <b>Do not store fuel cans in direct sunlight.</b>

## SAFE WORK PROCEDURES MOTOR MOWER

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
5. Maintenance	Cuts, lacerations  Risk of fire	Remove ignition lead from spark plug before carrying out any maintenance work on mowers. Clean mower thoroughly before commencing work. Obtain assistance if lifting mower on to bench for working on. Turn fuel off at tank with fuel tap. Turn mower on side so that carburettor is upwards to prevent fuel flooding. Use correct size spanners to prevent damage and slipping. Always replace blades in pairs (on opposite sides of blade holder). Use new bolts, washers and nuts when replacing blades. Do not use petrol for cleaning – use solvent cleaner. Allow air cleaner adequate time to dry, especially if washing in solvent. Replace spark plug lead only after maintenance is complete, and mower has been placed back on ground.	<b>Ensure that mower cannot be accidentally started.</b>  Wear <b>eye protection</b> . Observe recommended manual handling practices. <b>No smoking or open flames.</b> Wear <b>leather gloves</b> when handling rough or sharp objects, and where a risk of injury to hands from impact is foreseeable. <b>Wear hand protection.</b> <b>Wear Type 1 footwear.</b>

### PRECAUTIONS:

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

