



# Safety Instructions

THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READY BY THE USER  
BEFORE STARTING THE SAW.



## 17.1 Chainsaws

- This equipment is designed to be operated by someone with normal ability. Persons with a disability or injury must assess whether their disability, when using the equipment, will affect their health and safety and the safety of others.
- It should only be operated by someone with experience of similar equipment.
- This equipment must not be used by anyone whose competence is impaired, for example by drink or drugs.

- 1 Chain saws must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 2 These are potentially very dangerous machines that can cause major injury in untrained hands. A first aid kit should be available near the job.
- 3 Chain saws **MUST** only be operated by trained and supervised persons. Supervision should reflect the operator's experience and age, particularly operators under 18 years old.
- 4 Loose clothing, sleeves etc should be avoided. Long hair should be tied back. Wear overalls whenever possible.
- 5 Wear suitable protective equipment no matter how small the job. This includes hard hat, safety visor, steel toe cap boots with protective gaiters or chain saw boots, the recommended protective jacket, leg protection (trousers) and gloves.
- 6 When noise levels are uncomfortably high over 80dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 7 If higher noise levels occur regularly when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (85dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.
- 8 **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area. When felling trees ensure that no one is within two tree lengths.
- 9 **CHECK** that the front hand guard is secure. **NEVER** operate the saw with a missing or defective guard.
- 10 **CHECK** that the chain is properly tensioned and sharpened. Incorrect sharpening can make the saw difficult to control.
- 11 **CHECK** the throttle, the stop switch, and the chain brake before using the chain saw.
- 12 **DO NOT** use the chain saw if it is damaged, improperly adjusted or is not securely assembled.
- 13 When starting petrol engined chain saw, place it on firm level ground. Put your foot on the rear of the machine, your hand on the front handle and pull the starter cord.
- 14 **CHECK** lubrication of the saw chain by pointing the nose of the chain towards a clean surface and note if a light spray of oil appears when the chain rotates.
- 15 You must be alert when using a chain saw. Your senses must not be dulled by tiredness, alcohol or drugs.
- 16 **ALWAYS** use chain saws right-handed with the left hand on the front handle and right on the rear. It is potentially very dangerous to use it left handed.
- 17 **CHECK** for obstructions such as wire, twigs, etc, which could whip.
- 18 **CHECK** that the object being cut is secure. **DO NOT** hold it in the hand or across the knee.
- 19 **DO NOT** cut old timber which could have nails or grit embedded in it.
- 20 Keep all parts of the body away from the saw chain when the chain is rotating.
- 21 Place the bumper spike firmly against the wood before starting the cut.
- 22 Beware of flying splinters when cutting split timber.
- 23 Keep a deep cut open by using wood wedges. (Never use hard wedges such as steel).
- 24 **ALWAYS** draw the saw clear of the cut with the saw chain running at the cutting speed.
- 25 **DO NOT** use the saw if the chain is blunt. Sawdust rather than chippings indicate that it is blunt.
- 26 **TO AVOID KICK BACK** (the sudden upward movement of the saw):
  - a) Hold the saw firmly with both hands using the correct handles;
  - b) stand solidly on both feet;
  - c) **DO NOT** over reach;
  - d) **DO NOT** allow the nose of the guide bar and chain to touch any object such as a branch or a log;
  - e) Cut only at full power;
  - f) Keep the saw below chest height;
  - g) Keep the thumb of your left hand around the back of the front handle.
- 27 **DO NOT** adjust or lubricate any part of the saw when the engine is running.
- 28 Avoid carrying the saw around with the motor running but, if this is necessary, always apply the chain brake.

- 29 **DO NOT** place the saw down with the motor still running.
- 30 When not in use, the chain saw should be protected by a suitable guard or guide bar cover.
- 31 **DO NOT** operate a chain saw in a tree unless specific instructions on how to do so have been given.
- 32 **DO NOT** fell trees unless you have been trained in this specialist work.
- 33 **DO NOT** attempt to fell a tree with a diameter greater than the length of the guide bar.
- 34 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

#### Saws with an Electric Motor

- 35 When using a 230V chainsaw, the risk of injury or death from electric shock is unacceptably high unless the following precautions are taken:
  - a) Use RCD power breakers at the supply socket to give protection for both the equipment and its power cable.
  - b) The RCD should be protected from dust, wet weather, mechanical damage and vibration.
  - c) Position power cables where they are less likely to be damaged.
  - d) Consider using impact resistant conduits or armoured flexible supply cables where the risk of damage is high.
  - e) The equipment cables and RCDs should be checked every day (or every shift) using the following as a guide:
    - **CHECK** that bare wires are not visible
    - Make sure that cables are not damaged and free from cuts and abrasions (apart from light scuffing)
    - **CHECK** that the plug is in good condition, the casing is free from cracks, the pins are not bent or the socket is not blocked with debris or dirt.
    - **ENSURE** that there are no taped or other non-standard joints in the cable
    - **CHECK** that the cable covering has not been pulled out of the grips at the plug or equipment. (The coloured insulation of the internal wires should not be visible).
    - **CHECK** the outer casing of the equipment for damage and check for loose or missing parts or screws.
    - Make sure that there is no overheating or burn marks on the plug, cable and equipment.
    - **CHECK** the operation of the RCD power breaker by operating the test button.
- 36 **CHECK** regularly that all ventilation grills or holes on the motor housing are clear and free from dirt.
- 37 If the automatic cut-out operates, **ALLOW** the motor to cool before re-starting.
- 38 **DO NOT** use the chainsaw in damp, wet or flammable conditions.
- 39 **DO NOT** carry the chainsaw with the finger on the operating trigger or button.
- 40 **DO NOT** carry the machine by its cable or disconnect a plug by pulling its cable.
- 41 Unplug from the power supply before making adjustments to the chainsaw.

#### Saws with Petrol & Diesel Engines

If the chainsaw is powered by a petrol engine, or if it has a pneumatic motor powered by a compressor with a diesel engine:

- 42 Before starting an engine the operator should familiarise himself/herself on how to stop it.
- 43 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
- 44 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage **IMMEDIATELY**.
- 45 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 46 **DO NOT** use the machine in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been spilt.
- 47 **DO NOT** use the machine in a badly ventilated area or where exhaust fumes can sink into a basement or excavation.
- 48 Move the chainsaw at least 10 metres from the fuelling point before starting engines.
- 49 **CHECK** that there is no combustible material lying on or against the exhaust - it can get very hot.
- 50 In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the machine off **IMMEDIATELY**.

#### Saws with a Compressed Air Motor

- 51 **CHECK** that hoses are not damaged. A hose failure can cause injuries.
- 52 Air hoses must be blown out before connecting to a chainsaw. Hold the open end securely and open the air cock **CAREFULLY**. A blocked hose can become an air gun.
- 53 **CHECK** that all couplings are secure after connecting up. If a coupling parts the hose will 'whip'. **NEVER** attempt to catch and hold it down. Turn off the air.
- 54 **DO NOT** carry a saw by its compressed air hose.
- 55 Only use compressed air for cleaning down equipment with extreme caution. Take care not to blow dirt at yourself, other persons or into machinery. Use eye protection and ear defenders.
- 56 **DO NOT** use compressed air to clean yourself and **DO NOT** direct it at another person.
- 57 Shut off the air cock at the compressor and release air pressure before disconnecting a hose.
- 58 **CHECK** that all air pressure is released from the system after stopping the compressor.



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