



Safety Instructions

THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ BY THE USER BEFORE STARTING THE MACHINE.



17.2 Rotary Grass Cutters

- 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 The rotary grass cutter must be operated according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 2 **CHECK** that all person and animals are clear of the area to be cut.
- 3 **CHECK** that the area to be cut is clear of debris such as stones, sticks and wire.
- 4 **DO NOT** let children operate the machine.
- 5 Wear suitable protective footwear preferably with steel toecaps.
- 6 Before you start the machine make sure you know how to stop it.
- 7 Keep the feet well clear of the blades when starting and using the machine.
- 8 Always grasp the handle of the machine firmly with both hands.
- 9 **DO NOT** cut the grass by pulling the machine towards the feet. **DO NOT** walk backwards, you could trip and pull the machine on top of you.
- 10 **CHECK** that the rear deflector guard or the grass box is secure. **NEVER** operate the machine with these missing or defective.
- 11 **DO NOT** use the machine on steep slopes, (exceeding about 35 degrees).
- 12 **DO NOT** raise the front or back of the machine whilst cutting.
- 13 If you are approached by anybody, stop the machine immediately.
- 14 On bumpy or stony ground raise the cutting height of the blades to reduce the risk of stones being ejected from the machine.
- 15 If a large and immovable object is hit by the blade, reverse the machine immediately, stop the engine, wait for the cutter blades to stop rotating and inspect for damage.
- 16 When inspecting the underside of the machine, stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug (or isolate the electric power). Be careful not to tip the machine too far causing petrol to spill on the exhaust (petrol engined machines).
- 17 **DO NOT** push the machine over gravel, concrete or tarmac with the motor running.
- 18 **DO NOT** pick up and carry the machine with the motor running.
- 19 **DO NOT** leave the motor running when the machine is left unattended.
- 20 After stopping the motor allow time for the cutter blades to stop rotating (if the machine is **NOT** fitted with an automatic brake).
- 21 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

Electric Rotary Grass Cutters

- 22 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The grass cutter will be either 110V or 230V.
- 23 The use of a low voltage machine at 110V (CTE) will effectively eliminate the risk of death and greatly reduce the degree of injury from an electric fault.
- 24 Use a machine with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job.
- 25 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.
- 26 When using a 230V machine 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 chusing machine and its power cable.
 - b) The RCD should be protected from dust, wet weather, mechanical damage and vibration.

- c) Pass the power cable over the shoulder to keep it clear of the blade and position the rest where it is less likely to be damaged.
- d) The tools, 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 chasing machine for damage and check for loose or missing parts or screws
 - Make sure that there are no overheating or burn marks on the plug, cable and equipment
 - **CHECK** the operation of the RCD power breaker by operating the test button.
- 27 A grass cutter using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 26(d) above.
- 28 **CHECK** regularly that all ventilation grills or holes on motor housings are clear and free from dirt.
- 29 If the automatic cut-out operates, **ALLOW** the motor to cool before re-starting.
- 30 **DO NOT** use the machine in damp, wet or flammable conditions.
- 31 **DO NOT** carry the machine with the finger on the operating control.
- 32 **DO NOT** carry the machine by its cable or disconnect a plug by pulling its cable.
- 33 Unplug from the power supply before making adjustments to the machine.

Petrol Rotary Grass Cutters

- 34 Before starting the engine the operator should familiarise himself/herself on how to stop it.
- 35 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
- 36 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
- 37 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 38 **CHECK** that there is no combustible material on the exhaust system. The exhaust and silencer get very hot.
- 39 In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the engine off **IMMEDIATELY**.
- 40 When noise levels are uncomfortably high over 80dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 41 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.



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This leaflet is one in a comprehensive series of equipment safety instructions available from the CPA