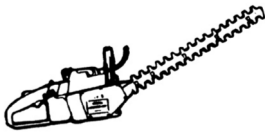




Safety Instructions

THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ BY THE USER
BEFORE OPERATING THE CUTTERS.



17.5 Hedge 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 hedge cutter must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 2 **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the hedge to be cut.
- 3 **DO NOT** let children operate the machine.
- 4 Loose clothing, sleeves etc should be avoided; long hair should be tied back. Wear overalls whenever possible.
- 5 Wear personal protective equipment as necessary, such as safety glasses or goggles and rubber soled shoes or rubber boots.
- 6 **CHECK** before starting work for fencing wire, posts or other obstructions that could jam in the cutters.
- 7 **DO NOT** hold the machine by the cutters or carry it close to the body.
- 8 When cutting, hold the hedge cutter firmly with both hands using the correct handles.
- 9 **DO NOT** over reach. Use a proper ladder or stepladder to reach heights. If you feel tired, take a rest.
- 10 **DO NOT** attempt to cut thick branches, as this will cause jamming of the cutters. Should this occur, switch off at the motor before attempting to remove the obstruction.
- 11 **DO NOT** continue to use the machine if the cutters are damaged.
- 12 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

Electric Hedge Cutters

- 13 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The hedge cutter will be either 110 Volts or 230 Volts.
- 14 The use of low voltage hedge cutters at 110V (CTE) will effectively eliminate the risk of death and greatly reduce the degree of injury from an electric fault.
- 15 Use the hedge cutter with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job.
- 16 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.
- 17 When using a 230V hedge cutter 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) Pass the cable over the shoulder to keep it clear of the cutters 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 equipment 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.

- 18 Hedge cutters using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 17(d) above.
- 19 **CHECK** regularly that all ventilation grills or holes on motor housings are clear and free from dirt.
- 20 If the automatic cut-out operates, **ALLOW** the motor to cool before re-starting.
- 21 **DO NOT** use the hedge cutters in damp, wet or flammable conditions.
- 22 **DO NOT** carry the machine with the finger on the operating trigger or button.
- 23 **DO NOT** carry the machine by its cable or disconnect a plug by pulling its cable.
- 24 Unplug from the power supply before making adjustments to the hedge cutters.

Petrol Hedge Cutters

- 25 **CHECK** that guards are secure on the engine. **NEVER** operate the machine with missing or defective guards.
- 26 Before starting the engine make sure you know how to stop it.
- 27 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
- 28 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
- 29 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 30 **CHECK** that there is no combustible material lying on the exhaust system. The exhaust pipe and silencer get very hot.
- 31 In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the engine off **IMMEDIATELY**.
- 32 When noise levels are uncomfortably high over 80dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 33 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.



The UK's Leading Association for Plant & Equipment Hire Professionals

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