



## 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:**
- Use RCD power breakers at the supply socket to give protection for both the equipment and its power cable.
  - The RCD should be protected from dust, wet weather, mechanical damage and vibration.
  - 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.
  - The motor, 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 motor. (The coloured insulation of the internal wires should not be visible)
    - CHECK** the outer casing of the motor 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 motor
    - 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 jammed against 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 at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 33 At still higher noise levels, when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (90 dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.



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