



Clearing Saws, Brush Cutters and Strimmers



**THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ
BY THE USER BEFORE STARTING WORK**

- 1 The machine must be used according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 2 **If the machine is the type that can be used for all types of clearing and cutting, make sure that it is fitted with the correct cutting head and the appropriate guard:**
 - Saw Blade** for heavy brush and saplings
 - Shrub Blade (or knife)** for brambles, undergrowth and matted grass
 - Nylon cord cutter (or grass cutting blade)** for trimming all kinds of grass and weeds.
- 3 **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area.
- 4 Loose clothing, sleeves etc should be avoided. Long hair should be tied back. Wear overalls whenever possible.
- 5 Wear personal protective equipment as conditions determine; safety goggles or visor and a safety hat when there are dangers such as flying debris or falling saplings. Non-slip safety boots with protective toe caps are essential.
- 6 When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 7 At still higher noise levels, when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (at 90 dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.
- 8 If the machine has a harness with it, use it and make adjustments before starting the engine.
- 9 **DO NOT** operate a petrol driven machine with the muffler damaged, sparks from the engine could cause fire.
- 10 When using rigid blades avoid hitting solid objects such as walls that could cause the blade to kick or even break up.
- 11 **DO NOT** use blunt or defective blades.
- 12 **CHECK** that the cutting head or blade is tightened properly before use.

- 13 **DO NOT** replace the nylon cord cutter with anything but the cord supplied by the Hire Company.
- 14 **CHECK** that guards are secure. **NEVER** operate the machine with missing or defective guards.
- 15 Stand firmly on both feet when operating the machine.
- 16 You must be alert when using the machine. Your senses must not be dulled by tiredness, alcohol or drugs.
- 17 Always cut in a direction away from the feet.
- 18 When cutting small trees or wood materials, use the left side of the blade to avoid kick back.
- 19 Should a blade other than the one fitted be required, contact the Hire Company.
- 20 **DO NOT** change or clean the blade or cutting head with the engine running or with the electrical supply on. Clean with a stick to remove grass etc, rather than using the hand.
- 21 Switch off and allow the cutter to stop before putting the equipment down and leaving it unattended.
- 22 Use the cutter's guard or cover supplied by the hire company for starting and transporting the equipment.
- 23 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

ELECTRIC MACHINES

- 24 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The machine will be either 230 volts or 110 volts.
- 25 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.
- 26 Use equipment with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job.
- 27 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.

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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 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 cutter and position the rest where it is less likely to be damaged.
- d) The machine, 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.

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Machines using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 28(d) above.

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CHECK regularly that all ventilation grills or holes on motor housings are clear and free from dirt.

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If the automatic cut-out operates, allow the motor to cool before re-starting.

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DO NOT use the machine in damp or wet conditions.

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DO NOT carry the machine with the finger on the operating trigger or button.

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DO NOT carry the machine by its cable or disconnect a plug by pulling its cable.

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Unplug from the power supply before making adjustments or changing cutters or blades.

PETROL MACHINES

- 36 **CHECK** that guards are secure on the engine. **NEVER** operate the machine with missing or defective guards.
- 37 Before starting the engine the operator should familiarise himself/herself on how to stop it.
- 38 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
- 39 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
- 40 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 41 **DO NOT** use the machine in badly ventilated areas where exhaust fumes can build up.
- 42 **CHECK** that there is no combustible material on or against the exhaust system. The exhaust and silencer get very hot.
- 43 In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the engine off immediately.
- 44 When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 45 At still higher noise levels, when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (90dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.