



Hand Held Masonry and Metal Grinders and Saws

Disc Saws, Cut-off Saws, Chopsaws,
Angle Grinders, Straight Grinders



THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ BY THE USER BEFORE OPERATING THE SAW OR GRINDER

- 1 The grinders and saws must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 2 **DO NOT** change the wheel or disc unless you have been trained in changing "abrasive wheels" and hold a current certificate. (This does not apply to diamond cutting wheels).
- 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; safety hat, boots with steel toecaps and leather gloves are usually necessary.
- 6 You must wear safety goggles when using all types of abrasive wheels.
- 7 If dust is being created by work, wear a dust mask or a respirator. Alternatively, suppress the dust with water if the tool is fitted with a water attachment. Masonry, concrete and stone dust can give rise to silicosis.
- 8 **DO NOT** use grinders and circular saws on materials containing asbestos
- 9 When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors
- 10 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.
- 11 **CHECK** that all guards are secure. **NEVER** operate the machine with missing or defective guards.
- 12 Only use the specified grinding wheel or disc for the type of material to be cut and ensure that they are in good condition without chips or cracks.
- 13 **CHECK** that the maximum permitted speed of the abrasive wheel or the cutting disc is above the indicated speed of the machine.

- 14 **CHECK** before starting that the material to be worked is securely held or clamped.
- 15 When operating the tool hold it firmly with both hands using the correct handles.
- 16 Stand solidly on both feet.
- 17 **DO NOT** hold the tool above shoulder height.
- 18 **DO NOT** force the tool. An even feed reduces the chances of an accident due to breakage of the disc or wheel.
- 19 Avoid working near flammable materials. When this is necessary make sure there is a fire extinguisher nearby.
- 20 Keep the ground around the work area clear of debris.
- 21 Use screens where necessary to protect persons working nearby from flying debris or sparks.
- 22 **DO NOT** drop or knock the tool. This can damage the wheel or disc which can cause it to shatter during operation with the risk of serious injury.
- 23 **DO NOT** carry the tool around when it is running.
- 24 **DO NOT** place the tool down until all rotation has stopped.
- 25 Isolate from the power supply before making adjustments to the tool.
- 26 Vibration from the tool can cause **'VIBRATION WHITE FINGER'** and eventually other damage to hands and arms. Keep your hands warm at all times. Gloves can reduce vibration. If your hands start to feel numb, stop work and exercise your fingers to restore circulation. Limit your time using the tool as much as possible.
- 27 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

SAWS (ONLY)

- 28 Cut with the edge of the disc only. **DO NOT** attempt to exert side pressure, it will shatter.
- 29 The disc must be totally stopped before lifting it away from the cut.

TOOLS WITH ELECTRIC MOTORS

- 30 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The tool will be either 110 volts or 230 volts.
- 31 The use of low voltage grinders and saws at 110V (CTE) will effectively eliminate the risk of death and greatly reduce the degree of injury from an electric fault.
- 32 Use tools and equipment with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job.
- 33 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.

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When using 230V tools, 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) 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 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.

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Tools using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 34(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 tool in damp, wet or flammable conditions.

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

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

TOOLS WITH COMPRESSED AIR MOTORS

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CHECK that hoses and couplings are not damaged. Failure can cause injuries.

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Air hoses must be blown out before connecting to a pneumatic tool. Hold the open end securely and open the air cock **CAREFULLY**. A blocked hose can become an air gun.

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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.

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DO NOT carry the tool by its air hose.

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Only use compressed air for cleaning down equipment with extreme caution. Use eye protection and ear defenders.

46 **DO NOT** use compressed air to clean yourself and **DO NOT** direct it at another person.

47 **CHECK** that all air pressure is released from the hose before disconnecting any coupling.

TOOLS WITH PETROL ENGINES

48 **CHECK** that guards are secure. **NEVER** operate the tool with missing or defective guards.

49 Before starting the engine the operator should familiarise himself/herself on how to stop it.

50 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.

51 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.

52 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.

53 **DO NOT** use the tool in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been spilt.

54 **DO NOT** use the tool in a badly ventilated area or where exhaust fumes can sink into a basement or excavation.

55 If the tool has to be used in an enclosed area, ducting may be used to discharge exhaust fumes to a safe place.

56 Move the tool at least 10 metres from the fuelling point before starting the engine.

57 **CHECK** that there is no combustible material against the exhaust system. The exhaust and silencer get very hot.

58 In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the machine off immediately.

TOOLS WITH HYDRAULIC MOTORS

59 Hydraulic tools operate within specific flow and pressure ranges. **DO NOT** use any other tool with the power pack other than those supplied by the hirer. (Some tools and power packs have identification labels which should be checked to ensure that they are the same).

60 **WARNING.** Hydraulic tools are generally much quieter than pneumatic tools of the same weight, but they are usually **MORE** powerful.

61 **CHECK** hoses for deep cuts, exposed braiding, crushing, kinks, ballooning and damaged fittings and replace if necessary.

62 **CHECK** that couplings are clean and correctly engaged before starting work.

63 **DO NOT** disconnect or connect hoses with the engine running. An oil jet at pressure can cause serious injury.

64 **CHECK** that guards are secure. **NEVER** operate the tool with missing or defective guards.