

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK – STRIMMERS

Prior to work commencing

1. Must be conversant in use of strimming equipment to be used.
2. Ensure that machinery is in proper repair and working order before commencing work.
3. Must have PPE i.e. safety footwear, facemask or goggles, head protection, hearing protection, gloves, appropriate outdoor clothing.
4. Must have appropriate tools and equipment in good condition.
5. Consider risks and hazards in proposed work area to self and others, e.g. broken glass etc.
6. Inspect work area before commencing, i.e. check for and remove debris etc.
7. Ensure familiarity with method statement for equipment and proposed work site.

Hazards to be aware of

1. Injury to feet and legs from cutting line
2. Ejection of debris from machinery while cutting.
3. Handling of sharp items of litter and items with biohazard risks.
4. Slips and trips due to uneven or slippery ground.
5. Manual handling of equipment.
6. Contact with moving parts of machinery.
7. Contact with fuel and oils and plant materials.
8. Noise from machinery operations.
9. Repetitive strain injuries.
10. Exposure due to weather conditions.

Harm

1. Minor cuts, fractures, vibration problems, amputations, excessive blood loss, eye injuries, infection.
2. Allergic reactions to plants, hypothermia, heatstroke, sunburn, muscle strain.

Persons at risk

1. Operatives
2. Other persons in the vicinity of the work area, e.g. passers-by.

Control measures

1. Ensure guards on machinery in place and effective for protection.
2. Ensure that working area is clear of debris before starting strimming operations.
3. Always wear protective clothing and PPE.
4. Take extra care on uneven and/or sloping ground.
5. Always adhere to procedure for handling hazardous litter.
6. Use appropriate lifting and moving skills for moving equipment and machinery
7. Always ensure that machinery is not moving and is safe before attempting any adjustment or clearing of moving parts.
8. Minimise exposure to fuel, oil and plant juices. Clean hands as often as possible. Use gloves.
9. Always use hearing protection when machinery in operation.
10. Recommended individuals should trim for no longer than 4 hours per day due to severe vibration problems.
11. Use good technique when strimming. Take hourly breaks of 5 minutes to allow muscles to rest.
12. Take account of weather conditions, wear appropriate clothing and take warm drinks in cold weather, cover up or apply sun block to prevent sunburn.

On completion

1. Inspect area covered to see if any hazards remaining to self and others, e.g. grass cuttings on footpaths etc. If present clear away.
2. Transport grass clippings etc to appropriate disposal point if required.
3. Clean machines. Arrange transport for tools and machinery to secure storage area.
4. Transport rubbish bags etc to appropriate disposal site.
5. Wash hands, arms etc thoroughly. Carry out personal inspection for cuts etc.