

Safe Operating Procedure

BRUSH CUTTER/LINE TRIMMER - PETROL OPERATED

DO NOT use this machine unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls.
- ✓ Check for loose/missing nuts, bolts and screws. Tighten and/or replace as needed.
- ✓ Inspect fuel lines, tank and area around carburetor for fuel leaks. Do not operate if leaks are found.
- ✓ Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional. Do not operate if guards are missing or faulty.
- ✓ Ensure the blade unit has a debris shield, either a bar handle or a U-handle, and is suspended from a shoulder harness.
- ✓ Select the correct cutting tool for the task. Refer to manufacturer's recommendations.
- ✓ Load the nylon line cutting head only with nylon trimmer line of the proper diameter.
- ✓ Thoroughly inspect blades for damage and cracks.
- ✓ When operating the unit with a blade, ensure the blade is attached to the unit as designed (for example, with a locknut and cotter pin) and with the teeth pointing in the direction the blade head rotates.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Watch for ejected material. Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating equipment.
- ✓ Adjust the handle/s to a position for comfort and balance.
- ✓ When starting, ensure the machine is in a clear area so the line or blade cannot contact the ground or any other obstruction.
- ✓ Make sure the muffler side of the engine is away from your body to avoid burns.
- ✓ Maintain a proper balance and secure footing. Do not work on slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces.
- ✓ Maintain a straight wrist position. Avoid using your wrist in a bent, extended or twisted position.
- ✓ Always keep both hands on the control handles. Do not operate one-handed.

- ✓ Keep machine clear of fences, wires, posts and rocks to prevent kick out and cutter head damage.
- ✓ Shut down immediately if the unit starts to shake or vibrate.
- ✓ Disconnect spark plug wire before you work on the unit or leave it unattended.
- ✓ Take care when refuelling to avoid spilling fuel on hot motor or exhaust.

ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ After shutting down the engine, keep fingers/feet away from the cutting line/blade until all rotation stops.
- ✓ Remove any foreign material from in and around engine, cutting tool and guards.
- ✓ Keep the work area and implement shed in a safe, clean and tidy condition.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INJURIES

- ⓘ The blade can push, pull or kick out.
- ⓘ Noise.
- ⓘ Ejected materials.
- ⓘ Hair/clothing getting caught in moving machine parts.

DON'T

- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Report suspect machinery immediately.
- ✗ Do not operate if the line cutter is missing.
- ✗ Do not raise the line or blade head above knee height.

**This SOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with this equipment
It is designed as a reminder to users prior to equipment use.**

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