



Safe Operating Procedure

CHAIN SAW

A chainsaw is a dangerous tool and must only be used by a trained operator in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction manual

Personal Protective Equipment

Safety Glasses, Ear Protection, Gloves, Safety Boots.

Possible Injuries

Do not tackle any job that you feel you not adequately trained for as you will be at risk from:

1. Hearing loss from machine noise.
2. Severe lacerations from revolving chain.
3. Eye damage from flying debris.

Safe Procedure

1. Pre-start checks:
 - a. Always take a cautious approach and use common sense when using a chain saw.
 - b. Make sure you are familiar with the machine parts and what they are used for before you commence. Read the instruction book or seek advice if you are unsure.
 - c. Check fuel and chain bar oil levels and top-up if necessary. Avoid refuelling a hot machine and observe fuel safety.
 - d. Check that the bar tip sprocket moves freely and grease if necessary.
 - e. Check the chain for cracks in rivets and links and excessive wear or stiffness. Replace chain if any fault found.
 - f. Check the chain bar for excessive wear and replace if necessary.
 - g. Sharpen chain. Use an appropriate chain saw sharpening tool and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
 - h. Check the chain tension and adjust if necessary.
 - i. Check machine for damage and functionality, particularly for the chain brake.
2. Starting chain saw:
 - a. Engage the chain brake.
 - b. Place on a level, unobstructed ground surface with a good footing.
 - c. Keep animals and other people away from the area.

Safe Work Method Statements

CHAIN SAW (CONT.)

3. Operation:

- a. Make sure the area provides a firm footing and that it is free of trip hazards.
- b. Make sure you can be in a comfortable position when cutting. You must be evenly balance on two feet.
- c. Avoid using the machine in bad weather (rain, excess heat or cold, fog and strong wind).
- d. Avoid kick-backs by not using the top of the tip of the bar to cut.
- e. Have control over the timber being cut. Check the stability of piece and secure if necessary.
- f. Never use the chain saw above shoulder height.
- g. Always use two hands to control the chain saw.
- h. Make sure the bar will not jam before completing the cut. Reposition the piece to be cut if necessary.
- i. Make sure the chain will not strike the ground or any hard object, particularly on the completion of the cut. Striking rocks can be particularly dangerous and will damage the saw and may cause personal injury.
- j. Do not cut branches that are in tension. They may release suddenly when cut causing them to hit the operator.
- k. Engage the chain brake when moving from cut to cut and stop the engine when the machine is not in use for any length of time.

References

Husqvarna Chain Saw Operator's Manual.

Trainee: I have completed this SOP: Signature: _____ Date: _____	Trainer: Signature: _____ Date: _____
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