

### What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts, lacerations and amputation from sharp blades, incorrect use of equipment



Trip injuries from obstructions, falls on uneven ground and slopes



Impact injuries from flying debris



Eye injuries from flying debris



HAVS from overuse of equipment



Impact injuries from moving vehicles



Explosion or fire as a result of ignition of petrol

### What PPE should the individual wear?



### What other precautions should be taken?

Do not exceed the total use time per day allocated to your particular machine

## Strimmers

## Safety Task Card STCBG 05

### Safe System of Work

1. Only use a strimmer if you have been trained to do so and are familiar with the specific model being used.
2. You must wear reinforced toe cap safety boots, tough overalls with long sleeves and legs, goggles, gloves and hearing protection when using a strimmer. In addition, a high vis vest or jacket should be worn when working in adjacent to roadways and in car parks.
3. Use barriers or signage to restrict access to the work area, particularly when working in areas where there is likely to be pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
4. When transporting a strimmer in a vehicle or trailer, it must be turned off, the fuel lines turned off, the tank upright and the machine held in position.
5. Familiarise yourself with the safety cut out switch and ensure this is working.
6. Ensure all guards are fitted and in good condition, that, all grease points are greased, there are no fuel leaks, and the clutch is working.
7. Check that all handles and vibration absorption units are in place and in good condition.
8. Only use specified nylon cutting lines and check that the limiter blade which maintains the cord length, is intact.
9. Remove any grass from the machine, especially around the exhaust manifold and cooling fins.
10. Make sure the air filter is clear and fitted correctly.
11. Inspect the area for trip hazards and remove any objects that may be discharged by or cause damage to the blades. If obstructions can't be removed, work around them.
12. Check the ground conditions to ensure the ground is not too wet or too steep.
13. Place equipment on firm ground and follow the manufacturer's instructions to start the strimmer.
14. Once it is running, attach the strimmer to the harness hook.
15. Operate the strimmer at a steady pace, using a sideways motion and keeping the cutting head parallel to the ground.

**If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding**

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

## Strimmers continued

## Safety Task Card STCBG 05

### Safe System of Work

16. Wherever possible work in a direction that discharges debris away from any people, plant or buildings.
17. Stop work immediately if any person or animal approaches the area of operation.
18. When strimming around an obstruction keep the deflector guard between the obstruction and the cutting head as far as possible.,
19. Take care when working on slopes.
20. Never use equipment with one hand.
21. Dog, fox and cat faeces and surrounding may contain worm eggs which can cause infection (Toxocariasis). To prevent infection, always wash your hands before eating or smoking and at the end of the task.
22. Turn the machine off when refueling, making any adjustments, when feeding out nylon cord (when using a v-cutter head without tap-and-go feature) or if you hear unusual noises from the equipment.
23. Switch off the fuel tap if leaving equipment unattended and when finished.
24. Keep hands warm, do not grip equipment tightly and take frequent breaks to avoid fatigue.
25. Comply with any exposure limits placed on the hedge trimmer. Do not exceed the total use time per day allocated to your particular machine.
26. The strimmer must be turned off and have cooled down before refueling it in a designated area, away from sources of ignition and in the shade.. Where required use a funnel and clean up any spillages immediately. Small spillages can be wiped up and a spill kit must be used for larger spills.
27. Follow the controls in the relevant COSHH Product Assessment and ensure the correct fuel type is used and correctly mixed with two-stroke oil where applicable.
28. Never smoke or handle ignition sources while refueling.

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