

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 or eye injuries from flying objects or debris



Back or muscle strain from manual handling



HAVS from overuse of equipment



Hearing loss or physical damage to ears from exposure to noise



Explosion or fire as a result of ignition of petrol



Impact injuries as a result of entanglement

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?

Do not exceed the total use time per day allocated the particular chainsaw



You must be trained and 18 years or older to use this equipment

Chainsaws

Safety Task Card STCBG 36

Safe System of Work

1. Only trained and competent operators with current and relevant NPTC / C&G / Lantra Certificates of Competence are permitted to use a chainsaw. CS30 / CS31 and CS32 as a minimum
2. Use warning signs and/or barrier to segregate the work area to ensure a safe working distance of 5 metres or twice length of longest product, whichever is the greatest.
3. Organise the work area and plan access routes, avoid high risk areas.
4. Prior to commencing work all team members must be briefed on site specific emergency actions and plans. Adhere to the site grid reference and postcode on the contract documents.
5. Lone working is not permitted, and a buddy system must be in place.
6. You must be trained to be able to visually inspect the diameter to be cut, which must be no greater than 1.5 times the size of the chain saw bar.
7. You must wear the required PPE for chainsaw protection as detailed in HSE INDG 317 (Chainsaws at Work). This includes:
 - Safety helmet to EN 397 - helmets must be within the manufacturer's lifespan (generally less than 3 years).
 - Hearing protection to EN 352-1
 - Mesh visor to EN1 731 or safety glasses to EN 166
 - Chainsaw gloves. Chainsaw gloves must always be available on site; however, non-chainsaw gloves may be worn if the risk from other hazards, e.g. working with thorns, cold / wet conditions, loss of grip, is greater. These reasons are documented on the risk assessment and briefed to all on site.
 - Chainsaw boots to BS EN ISO 20345:2004.
 - Leg protection to EN 381-5.
 - Non-snag clothing, including high viz vest or jacket.

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.

Chainsaws continued

Safety Task Card STCBG 36

Safe System of Work

8. Follow good manual handling practices when handling and using chainsaws and carry out warm up exercises before starting.
9. A scabbard must be used when transporting a chainsaw and when it is not in use, this includes walking to , from and between work site.
10. Tasks must be carried out in suitable weather conditions, and you must react to changing weather conditions.
11. Keep hands warm, do not grip equipment tightly and take frequent breaks to avoid fatigue.
12. Ensure chainsaw kit (first aid box) is available at the point of work and that all operators are trained in specific chainsaw first aid.

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