

CARE
East Grinstead and Lingfield

RISK ASSESSMENT

ITEM OF PLANT OR TOOL

ECHO petrol engine powered strimmer

DESCRIPTION OF RISK/HAZARD

RISKS

1. Physical injury of operator caused by:
 - 1.1 Moving the Tool in or out of a transport vehicle – muscle strain
 - 1.2 Filling engine tank with fuel – fire; inhalation of fumes; spillage
 - 1.3 Inappropriate handling of Tool during work – muscle strain; back strain
 - 1.4 Flying debris from Tool's cutting action – cuts/bruises to body; damage to eyes
 - 1.5 Noise from engine – damage to hearing

2. Physical injury to persons/property nearby to the work area caused by:
 - 2.1 Flying debris from Tool's cutting action – cuts/bruises to body; damage to eyes; damage to property
 - 2.2 Noise from engine – damage to hearing

PROTECTIVE AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

1. The Tool is to be maintained both mechanically and electrically in good working order. An inspection is to be carried out annually and a record to be maintained by the Section Manager responsible for the Tool.
2. The Tool is to be transported only by persons physically able to carry it and in such a manner that they do not impose strain on their bodies. The weight of the Tool is designed such that a normally fit adult should be able to carry and work it.
3. The Tool is to be prepared for work and operated only by a competent person who have received instruction in its operation.
4. The tool is powered by a 2-stroke petrol engine. Fuel is to be made available in cans of no larger capacity than 10 litres. The fuel is a mixture of unleaded petrol and 2-stroke synthetic oil mixed in ratio 50:1. Due to the very narrow opening of the tank on the Tool, the use of a funnel is recommended when re-filling, to prevent spillages. Extinguish all naked lights before any re-filling process commences and only perform this work in an open space, away from buildings and other persons.
5. When operating the Tool, care must be exercised to ensure that no other person is within a minimum 20 metres distance, to prevent injury caused by flying debris from the strimmer cutters. In the same way, the direction of the flying debris must be arranged in such a way that none could hit and damage property. This is particularly important where the work is being performed near a roadway where intermittent passage of persons and vehicles pose a hazard.
6. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to be used should at least include ear defenders and goggles and stout shoes should be worn. Gloves may also be used as an Operator preference, as should long trousers.

7. Before starting to use the Tool ensure that all other people, who are in the vicinity of the work area, are made aware of the work that is about to begin and are warned to keep clear.
8. Always ensure that the engine is stopped before attempting to touch any part of the strimmer cutters. This includes clearing any jammed or stuck material.
9. The Tool is to be maintained in a clean condition, being returned to the designated storage location at the end of each job. Any malfunctions or other problems that have been encountered by the most recent Operator, shall be reported to the Section Manager.

The individual given the work task is to have received training in operation of the Tool.

Risk Rating for Echo strimmer (the Tool)

Consequence	Score	Assessed	Likelihood	Score	Assessed
Major	5		Very High	5	
High	4		High	4	
Medium	3		Medium	3	
Low	2		Low	2	▲
Minor	1	▲	Improbable	1	

Risk Rating 2

Definitions and Explanation

Hazard	Something with potential to cause harm
Consequence	Degree of harm that can be caused
Likelihood	Indicates the probability of an event occurring
Risk Rating	Consequence x Likelihood = Severity of Risk

<u>Definition</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Description</u>
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Consequence

Major	5	Causing death to one or more people or life-threatening disease e.g. cancer, silicosis
High	4	Causing permanent disability e.g loss of limb, chronic back pain, blindness
Medium	3	Causing temporary disability e.g fracture, unconsciousness
Low	2	Causing significant injuries e.g sprains, bruises, lacerations
Minor	1	Causing minor injuries e.g. cuts, scratches

Likelihood

Very High	5	It is almost certain than an accident or Ill health will result if the situation continues
High	4	It is very likely that the effects of humans or other factors will cause an accident or ill health
Medium	3	It is foreseeable that circumstances will combine to result in an incident
Low	2	It is unlikely that circumstances will combine to result in an incident
Improbable	1	It is most unlikely that an accident will occur. It would require freak conditions to occur, against which it is not reasonable to protect. This should be the normal state of the workplace.

Risk Rating – the resulting Risk Rating is interpreted as follows:

16-25 High Immediate and permanent action must be taken to control the risk. If not practicable to control the risk immediately then other controls must be put in place in the meantime.

8-15 Medium A careful examination must be undertaken of the factors involved to determine what actions are reasonably practicable to reduce the risk rating.

2-6 Low Not requiring a great deal of attention. However, if a simple and inexpensive solution exists which will reduce risks further then it should be implemented.

1 No perceived risk

Assessment carried out by: Hedley Cooper

Date: 9th November 2017