

AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL AMENITY EQUIPMENT

(See also: [Work Equipment\(91\)](#); [Golf Courses\(36\)](#); [Personal Protective Equipment\(63\)](#))

INTRODUCTION

There may be occasions when equipment, which may be primarily for agricultural or horticultural use, is used in premises for which the Council is the enforcing authority (e.g. golf courses, sports clubs). Examples of such equipment include tractors, chain saws, brush cutters and strimmers. As such items have the potential to cause serious personal injuries or even death, the following advice can be used to control such risks.

TRACTORS

Safety considerations relating to tractors include:

- roll over protection;
- noise levels;
- tools/toolboxes to be kept outside the cab;
- adequate seating;
- overturning (caused by slopes, changing ground conditions, load stability etc);
- correct hitching;
- adequate and regular safety checks;
- Guarding - shafts, pulleys, belt flywheels, gearing, chains etc. The power take-off shafts (PTOs) must be totally enclosed by a suitable and appropriate guard over its full length.
- Training - this can be provided by organisations such as the Agricultural Training Board.

CHAIN SAWS

Safety considerations relating to the use of chainsaws include:

Training - anyone using a chainsaw at work should have received adequate training in safe use. Guidance on training standards of competence can be found in Guidance Note GS48. A range of recognised training courses are available which cover different types of chainsaw work. Information can be obtained from: FASTCo, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT. Tel: 0131 314 6247. Fax: 0131 316 4344;

Forestry Contracting Association Ltd, Dalfling, Blairdaff, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 5LA.
Tel: 01467 651368 Fax: 01467 651595;

Lantra, National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG.
Tel: Lantra Connect 0345 078007 Fax: 02476 411655.

Maintenance - of the chain catcher; silencer; guide bar; drive sprocket and chain links; side plate, front and rear hand guards; anti-vibration mounts (which help prevent Vibration White Finger (VWF))

- Safe **fuelling and lubrication**.
- **Protective clothing**, i.e. safety helmet (replaced every 2-3 years usually)
 - hearing protection
 - eye protection
 - close fitting clothing
 - protective gloves
 - leg protection
 - chain saw boots or other alternative but equivalent provision for occasional work in low risk environments.
- **Pre-use** safety checks.
- **Safe use** - so as to avoid injuries from kickback etc. And to include safety when working at heights.
- **First aid** - a personal first aid kit is essential and operators should know how to control major bleeding and how to deal with crush injuries.

STRIMMERS AND BRUSH CUTTERS

Precautions should include:

- Training - in safe use;
- Maintenance on a regular basis;
- Protective clothing (close fitting clothing, protective gloves, safety boots, goggles/ visor, ear defenders);
- Replacement of bent, warped, damaged or dull cutting tools immediately.

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February 2002

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CHECKLIST - AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL AMENITY EQUIPMENT

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| 1. Have you identified powered equipment, perhaps used more commonly in an agricultural setting? | YES | NO |
| 2. Do you ensure that all operators receive training in the safe and proper use of such equipment/machinery? | YES | NO |
| 3. Is all such training recorded? | YES | NO |
| 4. Do you issue safety instructions concerning such equipment? | YES | NO |
| 5. Does your equipment receive suitable and regular maintenance and are records of such maintenance kept? | YES | NO |
| 6. Do you select and provide suitable personal protective equipment? | YES | NO |
| 7. Do you provide personal first aid kits to operators? | YES | NO |

REFERENCES/FURTHER DETAILS

- * 1. Leaflet INDG 185 - 'Tractor Action - A step by step guide'. (HSE). www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg185.htm
- * 2. Booklet HS(G) 89 - Safeguarding Agricultural Machinery. (HSE) ISBN 07176 2400 5
- **3. Leaflet INDG317- 'Chainsaws at work.' (HSE) ISBN 0 7176 1769 6. www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg317.pdf

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- * Available to view by prior arrangement at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Environmental Health Services, Council House, Coton Road, Nuneaton. CV11 5AA
 - ** Free copy available from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council at the above address.

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