

# Safe Operating Procedure

## Chainsaw



### PERSONAL SAFETY



### PRE OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- Ensure chain is sharpened and tension is as per manufacturer's specification;
- Clean and check condition of the air filter, sprocket covers and grill on fan housing;
- Check for loose parts and ensure all cover bolts are tight;
- Ensure chain catcher is in place and anti-vibration mountings are in good condition;
- Top up the fuel and oil reservoirs and clean all traces of fuel and oil from saw;
- Ensure chain brake mechanism is in good condition.

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- The single most dangerous aspect of the chainsaw is 'kickback'.  
Occurs when the bar nose contacts an object, resulting in an instantaneous kick reaction;
- Mechanical hazards due to cutting and impact, related to the saw chain;
- Excessive noise and vibration;
- Contact with or inhalation of harmful fluids, gases, mists, fumes and dusts;
- Fire or explosion related to fuel spillage or incorrect fuelling;
- Unexpected start-up, unexpected overrun/over-speed from failure/disorder of the control system related to failure in the handles and position of the controls;
- Break up of chain during operation;
- Ejection of objects or fluids related to chip discharge and fuel spillage.

### OPERATIONAL SAFETY PRACTICES (CONTROLS)

- Place chainsaw on cleared area on the ground away from other personnel close to the job;
- Check that choke throttle control is set correctly and chain brake engaged before starting;
- Place right foot through rear handle and left hand on front handle with left thumb under front handle and brace chainsaw;
- Operate starter with right hand - **keep clear of running chain**;
- Use both hands to hold the chainsaw, with left-hand thumb under front handle;
- Always stand with secure footing and stance;
- Never use chainsaw over shoulder height;
- Keep chain clear of ground;
- Do not carry a running saw over rough terrain or for long distances;
- Apply chain brake when cut is complete;
- Avoid using the nose of the chainsaw and keep it away from other objects;
- Avoid low engine revs while cutting, particularly when bar nose is covered by timber.

### HOUSEKEEPING

- Turn off machine and for corded tools disconnect from power source;
- Leave surrounding area and the machine in a safe, clean and tidy state.