1664 Safety Guidance

TOWABLE

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Towable Wood Chipper

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Towable Wood Chipper

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. It is important to read all of this leaflet and any others provided before you use this Wood Chipper.
3. TAKE CARE! This chipper is self feeding; it will pull arms and legs through to the cutting knives with great force. Keep well clear.
4. Diesel fuel is flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
5. Because operator contact with this machine is minimal, there is no vibration hazard. Do not lean against or hold onto the machine for long periods.
6. This Wood Chipper is designed to reduce small branches, twigs, brushwood and similar materials to small chips, ready for disposal, composting, mulching, or footpath covering. It must not be used for any other purpose.
7. The action of this Wood Chipper can cause injury or damage if it is not used in a careful and controlled way.
8. You should not use this Wood Chipper unless you are authorized, and have had previous experience, or you have had a course of instruction from a responsible body. (see HSE leaflet AFAG 805).
9. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: safety helmet, complying with EN397; eye protection (a mesh visor complying with EN1731 or safety glasses to EN 166); hearing protection (ear muffs or plugs) complying with EN352; safety boots to EN 345-1; gloves; non-snag outer clothing; Dust mask – a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection may also be appropriate in certain circumstances.
10. A personal first-aid kit including a large wound dressing should be available.
11. This Wood Chipper is designed for operation by able bodied adults. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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WORK AREA

1. Do not use this Wood Chipper in areas where there is a danger of explosion, for example near an LPG compound. It could ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, do not drive the towing vehicle or use the Wood Chipper inside a building unless the area has good ventilation. Ensure that you have proper ventilation when using in any other confined area.
3. Select a firm level surface to set up the machine (see Wood Chipper).
4. Keep children and animals away when using this machine. Set up an exclusion zone of about 7 meters form the wood chipper, using physical barriers, barrier tap and signs. Stop work and make the machine safe should anyone enter this zone.
5. Assess other areas carefully if you need to drive onto them. Check your route for soft ground, slopes, holes and trenches. Check there are no tree branches, scaffolding, overhead cables or other obstacles you could run into.
6. Erect warning and prohibition signs, on all reasonably foreseeable approaches to the worksite, to indicate that it is a hazardous worksite and that unauthorized access is prohibited.
7. In areas of very high public access, a risk assessment may indicate that additional manning) are required.
8. Dust mask – a minimum of EN149:2001ffp2 protection may also be appropriate depending on waste being chipped.
9. A safety helmet, complying with EN397, colleagues, property, or members of the public.
10. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

OPERATORS

1. The following personal protective equipment (ppe) is the minimum that should be worn whenever you use the chipper. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. Wear eye protection (a mesh visor complying with EN1731 or safety glasses to EN166);
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 100dB(A) – wear appropriate ear mufts or plugs complying with EN352 giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
4. Wear protective boots with good grip and ankle support (complying with EN345-1).
5. Gloves with reinforced palms and fingers, cuffs long enough to be tucked into the sleeves of outer clothing;
6. Non-snag outer clothing without any loose cuffs, straps or strings appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions.
7. High-visibility clothing complying with EN471 may be appropriate in certain circumstances, or if working on the public highway;
8. Dust mask – a minimum of EN149:2001ffp2 protection may also be appropriate depending on waste being chipped.
9. A safety helmet, complying with EN397,
10. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

or the towing vehicle, do not forget that high-voltage electricity can jump across large gaps.

9. If on a complex or noisy site, work with a bankman or a traffic controller.

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For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
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Using the Towable Wood Chipper

1. Check the machine each time before you use it.
2. Wear your protective equipment. Ensure nothing can get caught on the branches as they are fed into the chipper.
3. Check your exclusion zone is clear. Stop work and stop the machine if the exclusion zone is breached.
4. Set the engine speed (and set the stress control if fitted), to obtain optimum performance.
5. Check that material to be chipped is free from stones, metal and foreign objects.
6. Operate the chipper from one side of the infeed rollers so that you can avoid being hit by ejected material and where you can stop the infeed of wood by activating h the feed control by using parts of your body other than the hands (e.g. elbow, hip, torso etc.).
7. Never jam, disable or remove the feed control bar or any safety device on the machine.
8. Never reach into the infeed chute until the infeed rollers have stopped completely.
9. Never do any adjustments, maintenance, repair or cleaning with the engine running or before all the machine components are at a complete standstill.
10. Let material go as son as it is engaged in the infeed rollers or chipping components.
11. Use a push-stick at least 1.5m long for both short produce and for the last piece of produce to be chipped.
12. Always feed branches butt first, releasing the wood when it is gripped by the rollers.
13. Periodically test the safety function by operating the feed control bar to ensure the infeed rollers immediately come to a complete standstill, and where the control system allows for reversing of the infeed rollers, it should be possible to engage the reverse function from the stop position without causing any infeed action.
14. To restart the infeed rollers after an emergency stop will require a force in more than one direction (e.g. lift and pull by the operator) on the feed control bar to disengage the stop position.
15. Do not put any part of your body (including hands or feet) into the infeed hopper while the machine is running.
16. Never remove guards for dealing with any blockages on the machine.
17. Keep the area of ground in front of the infeed hopper freed from debris to prevent any tripping hazard.
18. Ensure chippings ejected from the discharge chute are safely collected and disposed of properly.
19. Stop the engine and remove the ignition key if leaving the machine unattended or when undertaking any maintenance.
20. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please store this leaflet safely. It may be required for further information

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TOWING THE CHIPPER

1. Check the Wood Chipper drawbar and towing hitch carefully for damage and security.
2. Check the tyres: never tow or move the chipper with a flat tyre as it will be unstable.
3. Make sure that the towing vehicle is capable of safely towing the weight of the Wood Chipper, and that the vehicle towing hitch is in good condition, and compatible with the one fitted to the Chipper.
4. If the coupling is of the pin and eye type, the pin must have a suitable R-clip or over-centre clip to prevent it jumping out.
5. Fit any security chain or cable, making sure that there is adequate length free to allow cornering and towing over rough ground. The end of the security chain or cable must be fixed to a sufficiently strong point of the tow vehicle.
6. Connect any electric cable for warning lights and signals - and check that they work at the rear of the Wood Chipper. If you are going onto the public road, make sure that the towing vehicle's registration number is properly displayed at the rear of the wood chipper.
7. Make sure that the jockey wheel and jack legs are fully raised and secured so they will not drop during transport.

Before Starting Work...

WOOD CHIPPER

1. Check your machine thoroughly, including the engine and all equipment. If anything is damaged, do not use the chipper – contact your hire company immediately.
2. Wear eye protection (a mesh visor complying with EN1731 or safety glasses to EN166);
3. Ensure protective devices, such as the infeed control bar (incorporating the stopping device), are working correctly.
4. This Wood Chipper may be used whilst attached to the towing vehicle, or it can be used when detached from the vehicle.
5. If the chipper is detached, apply the handbrake, lower the jack legs and the jockey wheel and, if necessary, chock the wheels.
6. Position the chipper in the safest place ensuring that operators do not have to stand on embankments/slopes or roadways when feeding material into the machine.
7. Ensure the discharge chute is positioned to prevent chips being blown onto the highway during roadside operations or in any direction where they can affect colleagues, property, or members of the public.
8. Adjust the infeed chute to at least 600mm from the ground. If detached from the vehicle the adjustment is made by altering the height of the jockey wheel and support legs.
9. Wood chippers are heavy machines, get help if you have to manoeuvre the machine into position, especially on sloping ground. Do not pull beyond your own capabilities.
10. If used on any public road or highway this Wood Chipper and the towing vehicle must comply with road traffic regulations. In addition, the driver must have an appropriate driving licence.
11. Ensure all operations near to highways have adequate signs with appropriate notices.
12. Make sure that you understand all of the controls including the control system for the infeed rollers and feed control bar so that the rollers can be stopped in an emergency, and how the separate reset control is activated by the operator when safe to resume work.

INSURANCE

1. Under the terms of hire, you are responsible for the safe custody of the wood chipper. You must also indemnify your hire company against any loss or unreasonable damage, such as vandalism. The best way to do this is to take out proper insurance.
2. Some hire companies will offer insurance cover at an extra charge.
3. As well as taking out insurance, you must always secure the vehicle yourself against theft or vandalism.
4. Remove any ignition keys, lock the fuel cap and operate any other security device to prevent unauthorised use or theft.
5. You should be aware that if you cause damage to property belonging to a third party, or if you are involved in a road traffic accident, it is unlikely that normal insurance policies will give you any protection.
5. If you are in any doubt about your insurance cover, check with your hire company or your insurer immediately.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If you have a designated fuel dispensing site follow the site instructions. Otherwise follow the instructions below.
4. Move the Chipper to a safe place away from your work area if possible.
5. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
6. Use clean fuel when refuelling. If you don't have a fuel pump, use a funnel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the vehicle.
7. Wipe any fuel off the vehicle. Dispose of any fuel-soaked cloth carefully.
8. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
9. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
10. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.
11. It is good practice to refill the fuel tank at the end of the day's shift, not at the start. This will help prevent condensation from building up in the fuel system.

STARTING THE ENGINE

1. If the hire company has given you specific starting instructions - follow them - if not follow these instructions
2. Make sure that nobody is within the work area of the feed chute.
3. Set the throttle control switch to idle/start position.
4. Ensure the feed control bar is pushed to the FEED OUT or STOP position.
5. Insert the key in the ignition switch. Turn the key part way to engage the cold start device, hold it in that position for about twenty seconds, then turn fully to engage the starter.
6. When the engine fires, release the key, which will return to its 'running' position.
7. Pull the reset lever to release the feed control bar to its work position.
8. moving it to its three positions - "FEED IN" (Feed rollers rotate inwards) - "STOP" (Feed rollers stop) - "FEED OUT"(Feed outwards).

STOPPING THE ENGINE

1. Push the feed control bar to the "STOP" position.
2. Reset the throttle switch to "START/IDLE" position and allow the chipper disc to slow down.
3. Turn the start key to "OFF", wait for the chipper disc to stop, remove the key if appropriate.

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