

Chainsaw

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 Chainsaw

- This leaflet should be read together with the safety instruction leaflet for the chainsaw provided by the hire company.
- A chainsaw is a powerful tool, which can easily cut through hard timber. However, it can also cause serious injuries if it is used carelessly.
- This leaflet can help you to use the chainsaw safely, but it can't take the place of the safety instruction leaflet and act in a careful and responsible way to avoid accidents.
- The guidance in this leaflet is aimed at ALL chainsaw users professionals who have had rigorous training).

PREPARATION

- You must always be wide awake, and fully alert whenever you are working with a chainsaw. If you are tired or confused, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, do not use the saw. Leave the job for another day.
- When using a chainsaw, there are three main hazards to be constantly on guard against. These are:
 - kickback - when the tip of the guide bar kicks up and back unexpectedly;
 - injuries caused by letting the saw drop out of control;
 - leg injuries - the tree or timber, which could fall on you or someone else.

The steps outlined in this leaflet will help you guard against these hazards.



Every year there are a large number of accidents in the UK which have arisen from not understanding the information given in this document and supporting material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments can have force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

HAE
The Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Solihull Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
Website: www.hae.org.uk

THE JOB

- Think about the job that you plan to do - if you are not a professional operator, or it may be that a chainsaw is not the right tool for the job.
- Some work with trees should only be done by a fully competent professional operator. Do not try to cut down or work on:
 - any tree over 4 metres in height or with a trunk greater than 150mm diameter;
 - any fallen or uprooted trees that were over those sizes when standing;
 - any storm damaged or hung-up trees;
 - any tree that is leaning excessively;
 - any tree that is holding up another tree;
 - any standing tree that is rotten in the trunk.
- Get a professional tree surgeon to do these jobs.
- Do not use the chainsaw for any work that requires the user to be off the ground, for example to cut down a tree, or to cut any work involving cutting above shoulder height.
- Do not use the saw for cutting small shrubs or trees without solid wood.
- Do not use the saw for cutting timber that may have nails or other foreign bodies in it.
- Do not use the saw for cutting roots or stumps at ground level. This would quickly blunt the chain.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Check that you have suitable personal protective equipment (safety equipment) for the job. This should include:
 - how small the job is to give protection against injury. The hire company will have appropriate equipment available.
- The chain tension can be adjusted with the two-in-one tool supplied with the chainsaw.

The necessary equipment is:

- safety helmet
- face shield or chainsaw mesh visor
- ear defenders
- chainsaw safety mitts
- chainsaw leg protectors giving all round leg protection
- chainsaw protective gaiters
- industrial steel toe-cap boots



Chainsaw protective boots can be worn instead of safety boots and gaiters.

CHECK THE SAW

- The saw has a brake built-in, which can stop the chain instantly. This helps to reduce the probability of kickback injuries. With the engine stopped, push the front hand guard forward until it clicks. The chain should now be fixed solid. If the chain can move, the brake is not working. Contact the hire company straight away.
- Take the chain brake off by pulling the front hand guard back towards the front handle. The chain should move freely again.
- Check the chain tension. Make sure that the chain brake is off, and that the control switch is set to OFF. Put the saw down on a flat surface. With the engine stopped, pull the chain around the guidebar with one hand, but do not hold the saw itself down. The chain tension is about right around the guidebar, without the chainsaw body moving.
- The chain tension can be adjusted with the two-in-one tool supplied with the chainsaw.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

Before Starting Work...



Slacken off the two nuts holding the guidebar so that they are finger-tight. Adjust the chain tension by turning the clockwise to tighten. This usually turns the chain to the right. When the chain tension is right, hold the front end of the guidebar up and tighten the two nuts so that the guidebar is secure.

THINK ABOUT THE HAZARDS

- The three main hazards to be constantly on guard against are: kickback, leg injuries, and shoulder and head.
- Kickback is a sudden kicking up and back of the chain at the tip of the guidebar hitting an object or being thrown back, rather than cutting in, or out.
- Leg injuries are often caused by the user letting the saw drop or swing out of control after cutting through the timber. In fact, about two out of three of chainsaw injuries are to the leg, hip or feet.
- The tree that you may plan to cut down and pull apart from falling onto you or someone else. Branches can spring and flick as they are cut.

GUARD AGAINST THE HAZARDS



- It is important to use a chainsaw before practice each of the steps in starting and stopping the engine running. This will let you get used to the way the saw will feel when you get it started and secure position as soon as you start the saw.
- Put protective clothing on before attempting to start or use the chainsaw.
- Always grip the saw correctly with two hands on the front handle, with your right hand on the rear handle, controlling the handle.
- To avoid kickback:
 - hold the saw firmly with both hands;
 - stand solidly with both feet on the ground;
 - do not over reach;
 - do not allow the nose of the guidebar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.

GENERAL TECHNIQUE FOR CUTTING

- Have the saw running at full power before starting to cut. This means that the chain will cut into the wood, rather than bouncing or skidding.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- cut only at full power.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Do not cut at full power.

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
Website: www.hae.org.uk

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Solihull Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Logging

- When you are cutting up timber into short logs, avoid cutting upwards. Instead, roll the log down the slope, and put the saw down, before rolling the log.
- Do not try to cut small pieces of timber that are too heavy to lift. Instead, cut a larger log into smaller pieces, and then roll them through them without having to roll them.

Conclusion

- If you think your equipment is not working or that you need to repair it, contact the hire company.
- If at any time you are uncertain about the job you are doing, stop the saw and think about the hazards. Contact the hire company if you need different tools to get the job done safely. Contact a professional tree surgeon if the job is too difficult or hazardous.
- You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

Always

- Cutting up a tree that has been felled can be more hazardous than felling the tree. Under a lot of pressure and tensions that are not easy to gauge. As you cut through them, the branch or entire tree could move in an unexpected way.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not over reach.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Do not cut at full power.

Branch removal

- Cutting up a tree that has been felled can be more hazardous than felling the tree. Under a lot of pressure and tensions that are not easy to gauge. As you cut through them, the branch or entire tree could move in an unexpected way.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not over reach.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Do not cut at full power.

- Work out where your cuts are going to be before you pick up the saw. The sequence of cuts should be the safest and most efficient way of felling a variety of trees. Most importantly, it means that you do have complete control over the direction that the tree falls.
- Work out where your cuts are going to be before you pick up the saw. The sequence of cuts should be the safest and most efficient way of felling a variety of trees. Most importantly, it means that you do have complete control over the direction that the tree falls.

Make the cuts in this sequence:



- 1/4" to 3/8" deep notch cut into the trunk, on the left side of the trunk.
- 1/4" to 3/8" deep back cut into the trunk, on the right side of the trunk.
- 1/4" to 3/8" deep final cut into the trunk, on the left side of the trunk.

FELLING

- Look at the tree and think about the amount of weight that is balanced above your head. You might not bring all the way down to ground cause injury to yourself or others, or cause damage to property.
- Remember, some work with trees should only be done by a fully competent professional operator. Do not try to cut down or work on:
 - any tree over 4 metres in height or with a trunk greater than 150mm diameter;
 - any fallen trees or uprooted that were over those sizes when standing;
 - any storm damaged or hung-up trees;
 - any tree that is leaning excessively;
 - any standing tree that is rotten in the trunk.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Check that you have suitable personal protective equipment (safety equipment) for the job. This should include:
 - how small the job is to give protection against injury. The hire company will have appropriate equipment available.
- The chain tension can be adjusted with the two-in-one tool supplied with the chainsaw.

THINK ABOUT THE HAZARDS

- The three main hazards to be constantly on guard against are: kickback, leg injuries, and shoulder and head.
- Kickback is a sudden kicking up and back of the chain at the tip of the guidebar hitting an object or being thrown back, rather than cutting in, or out.
- Leg injuries are often caused by the user letting the saw drop or swing out of control after cutting through the timber. In fact, about two out of three of chainsaw injuries are to the leg, hip or feet.
- The tree that you may plan to cut down and pull apart from falling onto you or someone else. Branches can spring and flick as they are cut.

GUARD AGAINST THE HAZARDS

- It is important to use a chainsaw before practice each of the steps in starting and stopping the engine running. This will let you get used to the way the saw will feel when you get it started and secure position as soon as you start the saw.
- Put protective clothing on before attempting to start or use the chainsaw.
- Always grip the saw correctly with two hands on the front handle, with your right hand on the rear handle, controlling the handle.
- To avoid kickback:
 - hold the saw firmly with both hands;
 - stand solidly with both feet on the ground;
 - do not over reach;
 - do not allow the nose of the guidebar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.

GENERAL TECHNIQUE FOR CUTTING

- Have the saw running at full power before starting to cut. This means that the chain will cut into the wood, rather than bouncing or skidding.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- cut only at full power.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Do not cut at full power.

Logging

- When you are cutting up timber into short logs, avoid cutting upwards. Instead, roll the log down the slope, and put the saw down, before rolling the log.
- Do not try to cut small pieces of timber that are too heavy to lift. Instead, cut a larger log into smaller pieces, and then roll them through them without having to roll them.

Conclusion

- If you think your equipment is not working or that you need to repair it, contact the hire company.
- If at any time you are uncertain about the job you are doing, stop the saw and think about the hazards. Contact the hire company if you need different tools to get the job done safely. Contact a professional tree surgeon if the job is too difficult or hazardous.
- You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

Always

- Cutting up a tree that has been felled can be more hazardous than felling the tree. Under a lot of pressure and tensions that are not easy to gauge. As you cut through them, the branch or entire tree could move in an unexpected way.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not over reach.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Do not cut at full power.

Branch removal

- Cutting up a tree that has been felled can be more hazardous than felling the tree. Under a lot of pressure and tensions that are not easy to gauge. As you cut through them, the branch or entire tree could move in an unexpected way.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Stand solidly with both feet on the ground.
- Do not over reach.
- Do not allow the nose of the guide bar to touch any obstruction such as a branch or leg.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Do not cut at full power.

Make the cuts in this sequence:



- 1/4" to 3/8" deep notch cut into the trunk, on the left side of the trunk.
- 1/4" to 3/8" deep back cut into the trunk, on the right side of the trunk.
- 1/4" to 3/8" deep final cut into the trunk, on the left side of the trunk.