

TPEG Petrol Tool Risk Assessment March 2020

Introduction

This assessment covers the safe working practices to be followed when operating any petrol driven power tool.

You can use this assessment, along with the manufacturer's handbook.

Ensure you also assess the effect of the site and the weather as well as following this guidance. All operators must have had appropriate training in how to operate the machine and how to carry out the tasks required.

1) Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Use the following PPE:

- A safety helmet
- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Footwear with good grip.
- Non-slag outer clothing appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions.
- a personal first-aid kit including a large wound dressing
- Hand-cleaning material such as waterless skin cleanser or soap, water and paper towels should be readily available.

-

2) The machine

- Before working with a machine, ensure guards for any dangerous parts are secure and undamaged.
- Ensure the machine is correctly assembled along with the manufacturers instructions.
- Ensure the machine is clean and ready for use.
- Ensure any noise warning signs required are in place.

3) Selecting the work area

- Select as firm a surface as possible and stabilise the machine if necessary.
- Ensure ventilation is adequate and any exhaust fumes are vented into open air if working in an enclosed space.
- Ensure any discharge direction, is suitable to prevent debris being blown onto the highway during roadside operations or in any direction where they can affect colleagues or members of the public.
- Position the machine so that operators do not have to stand on embankments / slopes.

4) Emergency procedures

- Ensure a designated and responsible person knows the daily work programme and agree with them a suitable emergency contact procedure. Where reasonably practicable use a mobile phone or radio and a pre-arranged call-in system.
- Ensure the operators can provide the emergency services with enough detail for them to be found in the event of an accident, eg the grid reference, the distance from the main road, the type of access (suitable for car/four-wheel drive/emergency service vehicles). In urban areas street names and postal codes are essential. Know the location details before they are needed in an emergency.

5) Operating the machine

- Make sure the cuffs of gloves are close fitting or tucked into your sleeves to stop them being caught on material or moving parts.
- Set the engine speed (and set the stress control if fitted), to obtain optimum performance.
- Check that material to be cut or chipped is free from stones, metal and foreign objects.
 - For chippers, stand to one side of the in-feed rollers to avoid being hit by ejected material.
 - Let material go as soon as it is engaged in the in-feed rollers or chipping components.
 - Use a push-stick at least 1.5 m long for both short produce and for the last piece of produce to be chipped.
 - Do not put any part of your body (including hands or feet) into the in-feed hopper while the machine is running.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for dealing with any blockages on any machine.
- Keep the immediate work area free from debris to prevent any tripping hazard.
- Remove the plug lead when the machine is left unattended or when undertaking any maintenance.

6) Fuelling

- Stop the engine and, if necessary, allow to cool before refuelling.
- Remove the plug lead from the machine whilst refuelling.
- Petrol vapour is invisible and can travel considerable distances from spillage or fuelling sites. Maintain a safe distance from all sources of ignition at all times.
- Store fuel to avoid vapour ignition from any source such as fires, people smoking or the machine.
- Select a site shaded from direct sunlight and away from watercourses and drains.
- Containers must be clearly labelled and have securely fitting caps.
- Plastic containers must be designed and approved for use with petrol or diesel fuel.
- Replace the fuel cap securely.
- Keep fuel from contacting the skin. If fuel gets into the eyes wash out with sterile water immediately and seek medical advice as soon as possible.

7) Maintenance

- Ensure maintenance is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's handbook.
- Check the machine components before use for damage and wear.
- Before working on any machine, confirm that the engine is switched off, the plug lead is removed, and the machine is stationary.
- Before opening any guard/cover or reaching into the in-feed hopper or discharge chutes make sure the engine is switched off and remove the spark plug lead from the spark plug, and the dangerous moving parts have come to a complete standstill.

8) Moving the machine

- Stop the engine.
- Allow to cool before touching the engine area.
- Pull or carry the machine with the handles only.
- DO NOT TIP the machine on it's side as this may cause petrol to leak from the tank