

## SOP - Blower (Electric or Petrol)

**DO NOT use this plant\* unless you have been inducted in its safe use and operation by an Authorised Experienced Operator**

This SOP may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process. Additional training may be required for high risk plant. Site and task may change required PPE.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Eye protection must be worn



Hearing protection must be worn



Hand protection must be worn



Foot protection must be worn



P2 face mask must be worn when airborne dust or fumes are created



Protective body clothing must be worn

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

- Manual Task Injury**
  - Manual task injury from plant vibration
  - Manual task injury from repetitive movements
- Electrical Shock or Burn**
  - Electrical shock or burn from damaged or poorly maintained electrical leads and cables
- Other**
  - Hearing damage from excessive noise
  - Irritation from excessive dust
  - Contact with hot or cold parts of plants
  - Hearing damage from excessive noise
  - Injury from flying debris
  - Injury due to plant malfunction or misuse

### PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site specific risk assessment
- ✓ Check unit for loose/missing nuts, bolts and screws  
Tighten and/or replace as needed
- ✓ Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburetor for fuel leaks. Do not operate machine if leaks are found
- ✓ Check power lead is in good working order and does not create a trip hazard
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Do not use any attachment or accessory unless it is recommended in the Operator's Manual
- ✓ Ensure that guards are fitted, secured and functional in accordance with manufacturers guidelines

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Check that blower pipe is not blocked by the ground or by any objects
- ✓ Allow the machine to warm up at fast idle for a few minutes before using
- ✓ Hold blower firmly
- ✓ Maintain a straight wrist position. Avoid using your wrist in a bent, extended or twisted position
- ✓ The muffler side of the engine should be away from your body to avoid burns
- ✓ Maintain footing and balance at all times
- ✓ Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating plant
- ✓ Take wind conditions into account, avoid open doors and windows

- ✓ Minimise dust by using blower at lower speeds.
- ✓ Always keep exhaust area clear of flammable debris
- ✓ Do not refuel a hot engine
- ✓ Keep clear of moving plant parts
- ✓ Operate plant to the conditions of the work area

### ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Allow plant to completely cool before performing any maintenance, refuelling or cleaning
- ✓ Refuel plant at least 3 metres from combustibles
- ✓ Ensure plant is in good working order and stored in the appropriate location

### DO NOT

- ✗ Do not use if plant is faulty. Attach a DO NOT OPERATE tag and report fault to your supervisor
- ✗ Do not leave plant running unattended
- ✗ Do not work on slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces or on a ladder
- ✗ Do not wear loose jewellery
- ✗ Do not use mobile phone while operating plant
- ✗ Never use a higher speed setting than necessary to perform a task.
- ✗ Do not direct the blower in the direction of other people.

\*Plant in this SOP refers to any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool.