

## SOP - Edger

**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



Long and loose hair must be contained or covered.



Hearing protection must be worn



Foot protection must be worn



Hand protection must be worn



Protective body clothing must be worn

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

- Entanglement**  
Entanglement in moving parts
- Manual Task Injury**  
Manual task injury from plant vibration  
Manual task injury from repetitive movements
- Cutting, Stabbing or Puncturing**  
Injury from sharp or flying object  
Injury from contact with moving parts  
Injury from work pieces being ejected
- Struck by Moving Object**  
Struck by moving object due to work pieces being ejected
- Slip, Trips, Falls**  
Slip, trip, fall due to uneven or slippery work surfaces  
Slip, trip, fall due to steep working surfaces
- Other**  
Contact with hot or cold parts of plants  
Hearing damage from excessive noise  
Injury due to operating of plant in unsuitable weather conditions

### PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site specific risk assessment
- ✓ Complete visual plant check before operation
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Ensure that guards are fitted, secured and functional in accordance with manufacturers guidelines
- ✓ Before commencing operation, ensure that all obstructions such as rocks, stones and any other debris) are removed from the area
- ✓ Check that the cutting attachment is firmly attached and in safe operating procedure
- ✓ Check that the front handle is adjusted for safe comfortable operation

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Keep clear of moving plant parts
- ✓ Operate plant to the conditions of the work area
- ✓ Watch for ejected material. Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating plant
- ✓ Before edging, plan your direction of travel so the unit will always be positioned on your right hand side and so you walk on a hard surface wherever possible
- ✓ Blade depth may have to be adjusted due to differences in height between the hard surface and top of the grass

- ✓ Adjust the blades depth of cut to produce a fine cut between edging and grass using a minimum blade depth
- ✓ When starting –
  - Lay the unit on a flat area and keep movable attachment parts clear of all obstacles
  - Firmly grasp right hand grip with left hand
- ✓ Hold the front and centre or rear and centre handles with both hands, with thumbs and fingers tightly encircling the handles
- ✓ When starting to edge, run the engine at full throttle, and lower the blade gently into the ground, being careful not to hit concrete with the blade
- ✓ Maintain a proper balance and secure footing
- ✓ Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, or other rough ground. Tall grass can hide obstacles
- ✓ Shut down plant immediately if the unit starts to shake or vibrate, disconnect the spark plug and check for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble
- ✓ Before making adjustments bring plant to a complete standstill and disconnect spark plug
- ✓ Always exercise extreme care when refuelling to avoid spilling fuel onto hot motor or exhaust

### ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ After shutting down the engine, keep fingers and feet away from the cutting blade until all rotation stops
- ✓ Remove any foreign material from in and around the motor, blades and guards

- ✓ Allow plant to 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 operate plant on excessively steep slopes or slippery surfaces
- ✗ Do not attempt to make any adjustments while the engine is running
- ✗ Do not force the blade. Move as quickly as the blade will allow
- ✗ Do not work on slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces
- ✗ Do not wear loose jewellery
- ✗ Do not use mobile phone while operating plant

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