1652 Safety Guidance

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Long Reach Power Pruner

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 using the Long Reach Power Pruner

1. This pruner it is a powerful cutting tool which can cause very serious injuries if not used properly. Operators must be fully competent to use it. Do not allow anyone else who is not fully competent to use it.
2. Great care must be taken at all times when working with the pruner. If there is any doubt about how to use the pruner, it should not be used.
3. Work with trees and timber can be hazardous - if in any doubt about the operators competence to do the job in hand, it should not be done. Get a trained, competent professional to do the work, or find an alternative method which the operator is competent to handle.
4. Work must not be done near overhead electric cables or supply lines, because there is a serious danger of fatal electric shock. Keep at least 15m (50 feet) away.
5. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
6. This long reach power pruner is designed to cut and prune branches on trees from 2m to 5m above the ground. Do not use it for anything else.
7. Plan the work and think ahead to make sure the work will always be carried out safely.
8. The following personal protective equipment should be worn as a minimum: Helmet EN397; Face shield EN 166 or chainsaw mesh visor; Ear defenders EN352; SNR=25 minimum; Chainsaw safety mitts EN 381.7 or strong gloves; Industrial steel toe-cap boots EN 345, with good non-slip soles.Chainsaw protective boots can be worn in lieu of safety boots.
9. Power pruners must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. Power pruners are designed for use by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using them.

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WORK AREA

1. Do not use the pruner where there is a danger of coming into contact with overhead electricity cables. Keep at least 15m (50 feet) away from cables at all times - do not forget that electricity can jump across large gaps.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, never run the pruner indoors or in poorly ventilated locations.
3. Do not use this pruner where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
4. Make sure that the area is clear and safe, with no tripping hazards, and that no-one is nearby or could cause a distraction.
5. Protect other people from the noise and from danger. Warn others to keep away, put up warning signs or barriers around the work area.
6. Check that there is sufficient room to work, and the branches can be reached safely, without standing underneath them.
7. Some work with trees should only be done by a fully competent professional operator. Do not attempt to work on any storm damaged or hung-up trees. Get a professional tree surgeon to do these jobs.
8. Do not use the pruner for any work that requires the user to be off the ground, for example standing on a ladder or a platform.
9. Do not use the pruner for cutting tall shrubs or trees without solid wood.
10. Do not use the pruner for cutting timber that may have nails or other foreign bodies in it.

PRUNERS

1. Check the pruner, engine, shaft, chain, and all equipment. Do not use anything found damaged - contact the hire company.
2. Make sure that the control lever is off before checking the chain tension. Wear the chainsaw mitts or strong gloves.
3. The chain should move easily, around the guidebar, without being loose.
4. Do not try a set this pruner for any work other than pruning standing trees. If needing to fell trees or trim timber, a conventional chainsaw should be considered - contact the hire company for this.
5. Check that the chain oil tank is topped up before starting work.
6. Put the shoulder strap on, and adjust its length so that the pruner is supported comfortably near the right hip.
7. Make sure that all of the controls are understood. Before starting the pruner, it must be known know how to stop it.

OPERATORS

1. All operators must be competent to use the pruner. Do not allow anyone who does not have the required competence to use the pruner. If using the pruner, at work', operators must be trained, and may require a recognised certificate of competence for any work with trees.
2. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever this pruner is used. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
3. A face shield (EN 166) or chainsaw mesh visor must be worn when working with this machine.

Before Starting Work...

4. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 107 dB(A) - wear ear defenders (EN352: SNR=25) giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
5. A safety helmet (EN397) must be worn when working with this machine. Tie up any long hair to prevent it getting caught in the machine.
6. Protect hands with chainsaw safety mitts (EN 381.7) or strong gloves.
7. Industrial steel toe-cap safety boots must be worn (EN 345) with good non-slip soles.

Alternatively, chainsaw protective boots can be worn instead of safety boots.

8. Anybody who is working nearby will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

COMPETENT OPERATOR

1. Operators must be competent to use this pruner. Before starting work, check that all of the following points are fully understood. If anything is unclear, do not use the pruner. Check with the employer, or the hire company.
2. The operator must understand the location, and function of all the controls;
3. the hazardous areas on the pruner;
4. the hazardous areas under and around the tree;
5. other hazards in the work area that must avoid be avoided;
6. how to stand correctly when using the pruner and what the correct cutting action is;
7. how to start, and stop, the pruner;
8. how to avoid blunting the chain; and
9. what to do if the chain becomes blunt.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Use a fresh mixture of two stroke engine oil with petrol. If the hire company have given special instructions on how much oil to use, follow them. Otherwise use 1 measure of two stroke oil to 25 measures of petrol (40 ml per litre).Stop the engine and let it cool down.
4. If possible, move the machine away from the work area.
5. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
6. Shake the fuel can to mix the petrol and oil.
7. Use a funnel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on people or the machine.
8. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
9. If any fuel is spilled on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
10. The hazardous areas under and around the tree; be changed straight away.

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www.hse.gov.uk/construction

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

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11. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.
12. Check the level of chain oil.

STARTING THE PRUNER CONTROLS

1. This is a brief description of the controls found on most pruners. Check the pruner to find the controls before trying to start it.
2. There is an interlock control on the throttle trigger, to prevent the throttle being squeezed or pressed accidentally. The interlock always needs to be pressed in before squeezing the trottle.
3. The main control lever has two positions. Under normal running it is at the RUN position. To stop the pruner, push the control lever forward of the STOP position.
4. The machine may have a fuel primer bulb. This is used to draw fuel from the fuel tank when first starting the machine from cold.
5. The machine may have a decompression valve. This is only used when starting the pruner - it needs to be pressed before each fresh attempt to start the engine.
6. The choke control should only be used when first attempting to start the engine from cold.

STARTING FROM COLD

1. This is a brief description of the starting procedure for most pruners. If the hire company has given special instructions for the pruner, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
2. Pull the control lever back to the run position.
3. Set the choke lever to the choke position if the engine is cold. If the engine is warm, the choke control should be in the normal running position.
4. If your pruner has a fuel primer bulb, press it two or three times to draw fuel through from the fuel tank. This only needs to be done once.

ONCE THE PRUNER IS RUNNING

1. Check that the pruner chain runs freely, and stops when the throttle control is released.
2. Check that the chain oiler is working by holding the pruner head near a suitable clear object, such as a tree trunk, with the chain running. A line of oil should be sprayed on the trunk.
3. Move the control lever to the stop position to check that the pruner stops properly.

USING THE PRUNER

1. Wear ALL of the required protective equipment, then put the shoulder strap on.
2. Make sure that there is a firm footing, and that there is no danger of slipping or stumbling while working.
3. Start the pruner, then lift it and clip in onto the shoulder strap.
4. Make sure that the tip of the guide bar does not accidentally touch anything. If it does, the pruner may kick back and cause an injury.
5. Check that people will be clear of any falling branches before starting to cut.
6. Always keep the left hand on the grip on the shaft, with the right hand on the control handle, controlling the throttle.
7. Let the shoulder harness carry the weight of the machine - this makes it easier to handle and control.
8. There is a cutting stop on the underside of the bar: rest this against the branch to provide support and to steady the saw.
9. Make a cut into the underside of the branch first, to stop it splitting or tearing. Cut in about one-third of the branch thickness.
10. Then cut down from the top of the branch, slightly further out than the first cut.
11. Watch the branch as it falls, and make sure that people can keep clear.
12. Then cut through any stub-end on the trunk to leave a neat cut.
13. Cut long branches back in sections, rather than trying to do it all at once.
14. Make sure that the work area remains clear – it may be necessary to stop the pruner to move fallen material.
15. Stop the pruner before putting it down, or if it is to be carried anywhere. Put the chain cover back on.
16. If the saw throws out sawdust instead of chippings, it is a sign that the chain is becoming blunt. Stop the pruner, and change the chain, adjusting the tension to suit. Contact the hire company if you do not know how to do this.
17. Operators should always be alert when using the pruner. Do not use it when tired - leave the job until another day.
18. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
19. Put the chain cover back on when the work is finished.
20. If the equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

STARTING THE PRUNER WHEN HOT

1. Pull the control lever back to the run position.
2. Check that the choke lever is the normal running position. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
3. Follow the rest of the instructions from instruction 5 onwards given in the section 'starting from cold'.
4. This is a brief description of the controls found on most pruners. Check the pruner to find the controls before trying to start it.
5. If the pruner has a decompression valve, set it. It needs to be each time a fresh attempt is made to start the engine.
6. Place the pruner squarely on its base plate on the ground. Take of the chain cover, and make sure that the chain is not touching the ground or any obstruction.
7. Hold the pruner firmly, with your hand on the body of the machine.
8. With the right hand, pull out the starter handle slowly until it is clear that the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or it may break.
9. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
10. If the engine is now running, set the choke control to normal running position.
11. In cold weather, it may be necessary to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.

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