



Safety Rules: Lawn Mower Operation

Revision No:

1

Date effective:

July 2012

Revision date:

July 2015

Purpose

This document outlines the rules for the safe operation of lawn mowers.

Scope

This document applies to all ground/maintenance workers required to use lawn mowers.

Training

Supervisors shall arrange for operators to be introduced to the operation by a person experienced in use of the applicable type of lawn mower and with reference to the Manufacturer's Instruction booklet.

Rules

1. Operators **must follow the operating procedures outlined in the Manufacturer's information booklet.** The Manufacturer's Instructions must be kept with the equipment.
2. The operator must ensure there are no persons or public property that may be hit by flying debris, sticks, stones, wire etc.
3. Operator to inspect area to be cleared, any potential projectiles (eg rocks) removed, and if required the work area must be cordoned off and members of the public kept clear.
4. PPE to be worn: long pants, long sleeved shirt, Safety boots, Eye protection, Ear protection, leather gloves and Sun protection.
5. Mowers must be cleaned and checked after every use so as to prevent material building up on the blades, in the couling or catcher chute.
6. Mowers must be maintained so as to be in good working condition
7. Safety guards must be in place
8. Never leave a running mower unattended
9. Never clean blockages with your hands or while the mower is running; stop the engine and use a small gardening tool. Be aware that many petrol mowers may become hot near the blade when in use.
10. If an object is hit with the mower; stop and check no damage has been done to the mower before continuing.
11. Use appropriate manual handling techniques – do not bend and twist the back, use the legs. Take regular rest breaks. Remember, vibration can also cause manual handling injuries.
12. **For electrical lawn mowers** – only high visibility outdoor rated extension leads must be used. Only one extension lead of appropriate length is to be used – **do not** use multiple extension leads together to obtain the required length. The operator must remain vigilant during usage to ensure the blades are kept well away from the extension cord. Residual current devices (safety switches) must be used with this machine at all times.



DIOCESE OF LISMORE

13. **For petrol lawn mowers** – only refuel in designated **outdoor** refuelling area. **Do not** refuel hot equipment. Always allow equipment ample time to cool down before refuelling. Do not overcrowd refuelling area. Ensure any fuel spills are dealt with appropriately.