

Carry out routine maintenance of chainsaw and cutting system

Overview

This standard is about carrying out the routine maintenance of a chainsaw and cutting system, including the guide bar.

Chainsaws used in aerial and groundwork are covered by this standard.

This work could be carried out in a workshop or a woodland environment.

When working with chemicals and machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the routine maintenance
4. identify that safety features on the chainsaw are present and functioning
5. select the appropriate maintenance tools for the chainsaw power unit and cutting systems, in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements
6. inspect, clean, service and maintain the chainsaw power unit, in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and industry guidelines
7. inspect components within the chainsaw power unit
8. inspect and maintain the cutting system, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, using the appropriate tools
9. replace damaged, missing or worn components
10. report any defects appropriately this could be verbal or written
11. reassemble the chainsaw and the cutting system to an operational standard
12. carry out routine maintenance, pre-start checks and set the chainsaw for use
13. maintain appropriate records
14. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. emergency planning and procedures relevant to the work
5. how to use a maintenance checklist/report sheet
6. the reasons why safety features are fitted to chainsaws and how they function
7. the key areas to keep clear of debris during the operation
8. the key points of operational safety of a chainsaw and cutting system
9. the function and maintenance requirements of individual components
10. how to identify the key indicators of the correct chainsaw set up of the individual components
11. the reasons why it is important to check the chain and guide bar for wear and damage
12. the symptoms and problems encountered when the chain and guide bar are worn, damaged or poorly maintained and how to deal with them within your own level of responsibility
13. how to check the compatibility of the guide bar, sprocket and chain
14. the acceptable limits of component wear to the cutting system before replacement is necessary
15. the procedures to follow if damage or wear to components exceeds the recommended limits
16. the importance of selecting the correct file and gauge sizes when sharpening and setting the depth of cut on the chain, and where to obtain the specifications
17. how a cutting chain works
18. the different chain types and their application
19. why it is important to maintain chainsaws and the cutting system to a high standard
20. why records of chainsaw and cutting system maintenance are kept
21. the steps to be taken when a chainsaw or cutting system is not repairable, is faulty or is non-operational
22. the importance of checking how well problems encountered with the chainsaw and components were dealt with
23. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Clean, service and maintain the power unit including its:

- spark plug
- air filter
- starter mechanism
- chainbrake
- fuel and oil filters
- oil systems

Inspect the following components:

- clutch mechanisms
- exhaust (excluding powered pole pruners)

Inspect and maintain the following parts of the cutting system:

- compatible chain guide bar
- chain
- sprocket combination

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Glossary

Routine – corrective and preventative maintenance that is carried out daily or at regular intervals by the operator prior to and during work.

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