SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

Task / Equipment Description: **LAWN EDGER**

Potential Hazards and Risks:

- Rotating blade
- Noise/Vibration
- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Dust
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Adverse weather
- Muffler burns
- Flying rocks and debris

DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been trained in its safe use and operation.

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE ✓	Gloves	Hearing Protection	Head Protection	Eye Protection	Eye (UV) Protection	Safety Footwear	FaceVisor / Welding	Dust Mask	Half Face Mask (P2)	Breathing Appartus	Hi-Vis Apparel	Full Body Clothing	Harness
	✓	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other PPE describe:

ALWAYS

- Ensure you have been appropriately trained to operate the edger safely
- Carry out pre-operational safety checks before use
- Comply with PPE requirements
- Refuel when the engine is cool and switched off
- Be familiar with the on/off switch operation in case of emergency
- When wearing hearing protection pay attention to your surroundings
- Be aware of bystanders who may be signalling a problem
- Be conscious of surroundings in front of the machine. Debrie can be flicked out in front of the machine.

NEVER

- Never start or run the engine inside a closed room or building. Breathing exhaust fumes can kill
- Never use the edger if cutting blade assembly is worn or damaged
- Never start the engine unless the blade guard is securely in position
- Never pull the lawn edger towards you (Do Not Reverse). You may slip and pull the machine on top of your feet

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Pre-Operation – Safety Checks

- Read and understand the manufacturer's operating manual.
- Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional
- Check blades for damages, cracks, and sharpness
- Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburettor for fuel leaks. Do not operate unit if leaks are found
- Do not use if faults are detected
- Identify ON/OFF switch
- Adjust the handle/s to a position for comfort and good balance
- Before commencing operation mark any submerged obstacles, sprinklers etc
- Inspect the work area and remove foreign objects

Operation – Safety Procedure

- Check that the lawn edger is in good operating order
- Always start the engine on flat level ground
- Never tilt or carry the lawn edger when the engine is running
- Stop the engine before pushing the lawn edger across gravel, paths, or roads
- Stop the engine before adjusting the cutting depth
- Use extreme caution when changing direction on a slope
- Always walk with the lawn edger, never run
- Never leave the unit unattended when in use
- Plan regular rest breaks. Alternate tasks to reduce muscle fatigue and maintain concentration
- Do not operate machine when you are tired. Do not rush

Edging Procedure:

- Adjust the blade depth to suit edging depth (typically 10–25 mm).
- Start with low throttle and engage the blade slowly.
- Walk the machine steadily along the edge line, keeping both hands on the handle.
- Allow blade to cut – do not force or push excessively.
- Always edge **away** from obstacles, traffic, or pedestrians.
- Be alert for buried obstacles like sprinkler heads or tree roots.
- If the blade binds or stalls, disengage immediately before restarting.

Post-Operation – Housekeeping

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. eye, ear, hand, and foot protection)
- Prevent injury - avoid contact with hot parts. Maintain grip on machine until machine comes to a complete stop
- Never leave machine running while not in use or unattended
- Allow the engine to completely cool before refuelling or performing any maintenance work according to the user manual requirements
- Safe storage of machine when not in use to prevent accidental damage or use

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