**RISK ASSESSMENT No: D**

**HAZARD: USE OF PEDESTRIAN MOWERS**

**NATURE OF WORK:**

* Grass cutting

**HAZARDS:**

* Ejected blades, flails or attachments
* Flying debris/stones
* Contact with rotating/moving parts
* Contact with certain vegetation (i.e. Hogweed)
* Loading and unloading
* Contact with hot engine
* Sloping terrain
* Noise
* Vibration
* Slip, trip or fall

**THOSE AT RISK:**

* Operator
* Other workers
* Path users

**POSSIBLE RESULTS:**

* Cuts and abrasions
* Burns caused by fuel ignited during topping up or touching a hot engine
* Damage to hearing
* Numbness in limbs and fingers
* Skin irritation

**PPE TO BE WORN:**

* Suitable ear defenders (ideally complying with EN 352-1).
* Safety footwear that affords good toe and ankle protection/support and good sole grip (ideally complying with EN345- 1).
* Suitable gloves that enable hands to remain warm and dry.
* Non-snag outer clothing appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions.
* High visibility clothing (ideally complying with EN471) should be worn when working near to a highway.
* If cutting areas of hogweed, ensure skin is covered up.

**CONTROL MEASURES:**

* The mower should be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
* Before use, undertake a visual inspection to see that guards, blade bolts and cutter assembly are in place and not worn or damaged. Check the oil and fuel levels before use.
* Before use, remove debris/hazards from mowing area.
* Mow only in daylight or good artificial light, looking at least one metre ahead for any debris.
* Consider the need for warning signs to let path users know of your presence.
* Cease mowing when approached by a path user and allow safe passage.
* Take care when working on steep ground, always watch your footing. Mow across a slope and never mow a slope that is too steep for balance and control. Where possible, try to keep above the machine so that if you loose your grip of it or if you slip over, it does not fall back onto you.
* Disengage blade(s) when not mowing or when passing over gravel paths/drives etc.
* If blockages occur or if adjustments are required, ensure the mower is turned off and wait for all parts to come to a complete stop. Use a stick to clear blockages where possible.
* Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under the mower.
* Do not refuel the mower with the engine running or when it is hot.
* Wash off vegetation sap (particularly hogweed) as soon as possible.
* Where possible do not cut straight after it has been raining.