

SAWING –CUT-OFF SAWS (HAND HELD) JOB PROCEDURES

Installation

Hand held saws can be divided into two categories:

- (a) The power cutter driven from a small hydraulic power pack. The Partner K3500 saw with its off centre driven blade is an example.
- (b) The traditional disc cutter with a centre driven disc/blade, commonly known as a cut-off saw, driven either by a small integral petrol engine or electrically.

Although hand held tools are flexible and easy to use, the operator can soon become tired. Accidents can occur through fatigue as a result of a slip or mishandling.

In particular, the operator's clothing must be strong and close fitting. Heavy-duty, non-slip gloves must be worn, together with safety boots with non-slip soles. The operator must also use proper eye and ear protection and must wear a safety helmet at all times. Most materials create dust, when these tools are used for cutting "dry". Wear a respirator and/or face mask in these situations.

Before using a hand held saw, ensure that it has been checked over prior to issue and that the electrical leads and plugs are undamaged. Also be sure that all the controls and safety devices function properly and that the guards are securely fixed.

Never carry a hand saw with the engine running and remember that the cutting wheel continues to rotate after the throttle is released.

Avoid dropping the saw, as this may damage the blade and/or the machine.

The saw must be fitted with a disc that is suitable for cutting the material involved. Diamond and reinforced abrasive cutting discs are available and these may be used wet or dry. Make sure that the maximum speed marked on the disc is equal to or above the spindle speed of the machine.

Operating Procedures

Start the machine in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Under no circumstances should a petrol driven unit be drop started.

Both hands should be used when operating the power saw and the guard must be adjusted to suit the job, so that sparks, material particles or pieces of damaged disc cannot endanger the operator.

To achieve a clean cut, move the disc backwards and forwards in the cutting direction and do not force the wheel into the material. Do not change the cutting direction as this can place undue strain on the blade causing it to shatter or break.

The operator should have a firm foothold and should not work from a ladder or other insecure support. Do not overreach with the machine and never operate it above head height. Great caution should be used when inserting the blade into an existing cut.

When loading or unloading the machine under its own power up or down a ramp, the manufacturer's instructions should be followed regarding forward or reverse drive. The blade should be removed before loading or unloading.

The surface to be cut must be free from debris, and the line of the saw cuts clearly marked out on the floor. The working area should be closed off to prevent unauthorized access.

Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

Operating Procedures

The drive must always be disengaged when the machine is started.

Having ensured that there is an adequate water flow, the saw may be started and warmed up for a few minutes. Do not leave the machine unattended while it is running.

If the machine stalls when cutting, raise it out of the cut before starting the engine again.

When lowering the blade into a partially made cut, make sure that the blade and the cut are accurately aligned. If the machine veers off line, do not force it back into the line, as it could cause blade damage. Steer the machine carefully and stop if it veers badly. Do not apply excessive pressure downwards, as the weight of the machine should be sufficient for efficient cutting. A deep cut is best achieved by making several shallower cuts.

Keep your body away from the moving parts of the machine and know how to stop the unit in case of an emergency. Always wear hearing, eye, foot, and head protection of the approved sort.

The engine must be switched off before refueling.