CUT OFF SAW / GRINDER

1. PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the safe use of the quick cut saw / Grinder

2. SCOPE:

This document is relevant to all personnel using a cut off saw

3. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of anyone using the cut off saw

4. REFERENCES

The workplace safety Act 1995, Section 9
The workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1998, Regs 17-19 & 58-59
Cut off machine safety manual

5. SAFE WORK PRACTICES

The cut off saw has the potential to cause injury and death.

- Hands, feet, and head are most vulnerable to cuts
- Noise from the saw can lead to hearing loss
- Vibration can cause damage to hands
- Carbon Monoxide exhaust gases from saw can cause poisoning if in enclosed spaces
- Fire risk from fuel spills

5.1 Before commencing work check that:

- The machine and cutting wheel are in good repair
- Cutting wheel is appropriate to task
- Wheel guard is secure and in place
- Throttle and stop switch operate correctly
- Spark plug terminal is secure
- The handles are free from oil and dirt so a secure grip can be maintained on the machine
- If inexperienced, use only under supervision

5.2 Wear appropriate PPE

Goggles, face shield, steel capped safety boots, gloves, hearing protection.
Use dust mask if dust is present, wear a helmet if there is a risk of falling objects
Never wear loose fitting garments, long hair must be tied back.

5.3 Operating the machine

- Clear the work area of all trips and hazards
- Start clear of refuelling area
- Have the machine at high revs prior to starting the cut.
- Have a firm grip on the saw and ensure standing position is stable and well balanced.
- Do not force the blade through the concrete
- Do not cut too deep in any one cut, where possible cut sections at a time rather than one large cut.
- Take regular breaks

5.4 Preventing injury from kick back

Kick back is a sudden upward and backward movement of the saw.
It can cause serious injury or death

- Work calmly and methodically
- Hold the cut off machine firmly and securely in both hands
- Do not cut with the upper quarter of the cutting wheel
- Ensure the work piece is secure and supported so that the cut is not closed, jamming the saw.
- Always be prepared for the possibility that the wheel might jam.
- The cutting wheel must be guided straight without edging or placing any lateral pressure on the wheel.
- Do not stand in the line of the cutting wheel
- Never work above shoulder level

5.5 Preventing occupational overuse syndrome

- Take regular rest breaks
- Wear gloves
- Ensure the blade is sharp

5.6 Preventing exhaust poisoning

- Do not work in confined spaces

5.7 Preventing fires

- Do not smoke while refuelling or operating saw
- Refuel in a clean area
- Refuel only after the engine has cooled
- Move at least 3 metres from refuelling area prior to starting machine
- Only use an approved fuel container
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby

5.8 Maintenance

Never operate a saw that is faulty, damaged, or not properly adjusted.

- Service the machine regularly, check fuel and oil prior to use
- Use water with diamond wheels

Remember if you are unsure about something, ask for advice