



All equipment used to carry out work within any organisation must always be safe to use. Some equipment is subject to statutory inspections and maintenance at varying frequencies. Other pieces of equipment e.g. kettles, microwaves, mowers, strimmers etc. should be checked visually for damage before use and are advised to be formally checked for continued safe usage on a routine bases (generally annually).

Each business should have a Work Equipment Register detailing the items of equipment they have and that the equipment has been at least visually inspected once per year for continued fitness for use. Items failing the inspection should be repaired or removed from service.

Complex pieces of equipment will require more than a visual examination and should be inspected and maintained by a competent person to ensure that they remain safe to use.

Work equipment should be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and frequencies. Records of maintenance visits and any repairs carried out should be retained on site.



Risk assessments may be required for work operations utilising certain pieces of work equipment which pose particular hazards. The range of work equipment available to green keeping staff is wide and varied and may range from:

- **Tractors with associated PTO and Non-PTO attachments**
- **Mowers – both ride-on and rotary handmowers**
- **Scarifiers, Slitters and Spiking equipment**
- **Groomers**
- **Brushcutters, Brushsaws and Strimmers**
- **Chain-saws**
- **Fertiliser Spreaders and Pesticide Sprayers**

Important aspects in ensuring that machinery is used safely with minimum risk of serious injury include:

- **Training**
- **Competence**
- **Maintenance**
- **Correct use**
- **Safe Systems of Work**

Training provides staff with information on safe working practices and machinery should only be used by someone who has been trained and is competent in its use. Competence is developed through correct training and experience. To prevent unauthorised use, all machinery should be secured when not in use

and only authorised employees should have access to the equipment.

Proper maintenance of machinery is essential. Safety devices, brakes, controls etc. need regular inspection and maintenance. Guards are designed to prevent operators and others from coming in contact with power driven components of machinery when in use and **MUST NOT** be removed until components have come to rest and have been deactivated. Machines should only be used if all guards are in place – it is a safety offence to do otherwise.

Machinery in use on golf courses can suffer a build-up of grass/debris around engine/transmission areas. This debris can absorb fuel, oil etc and eventually become a fire hazard. The machine should be deactivated before removing any debris and thereafter debris should be washed off or removed to cut the risk of the material catching fire.

Most machines used on golf courses are driven by petrol or diesel fuelled engines. To help prevent injuries and fires it is essential that all staff are adequately instructed in the safe use, transport and storage of petrol and diesel. Fuel should only be stored and transported in approved containers which are marked with the fuel type.

Care should be taken when decanting petrol that all ignition sources have been removed. A funnel should be used to obviate spillage and the machine switched off (and allowed to cool) before filling commences.

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