

Australian Standard[®]

Chainsaws—Guide to safe working practices

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/33, Chainsaw Safety. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 March 1997 and published on 5 July 1997.

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Australian Timber Trainers Association
German–Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
Outdoor Power Equipment Association
Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association
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Chainsaws—Guide to safe working practices

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Second edition 1997.

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee SF/33, Chainsaw Safety, to supersede AS 2727—1984.

The Standard provides guidelines and recommendations for the safe use of general purpose chainsaws, identifies the hazards associated with the use of chainsaws and the requirements for a safe work site, describes methods for particular operations, e.g. cross cutting, simple tree felling, delimiting and pruning. It also gives the basic principles for the training of chainsaw operators, the maintenance of chainsaws and the sharpening of saw chains.

This edition has been rearranged to help the user fully understand the precautions which should be observed when using a chainsaw and some information has been revised.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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Australian Standard

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard sets out recommendations and elementary guidance on the safe use and care of chainsaws for general use. It includes recommendations for the training and supervision of chainsaw operators and the use of adequate and protective clothing, and identifies some of the more common hazards and dangers experienced in the use of chainsaws.

This Standard does not cover the following:

- (a) The hazards specifically associated with non-I.C.E. driven power sources.
NOTE: Reference should be made to the manufacturer's instructions regarding the hazards associated with this equipment.
- (b) The full range of techniques required for tree felling operations.
NOTE: The felling of trees should be undertaken only by experienced operators or under the direct supervision of a skilled operator.
- (c) Matters of specific guidance on the safe use of special purpose chainsaws such as tree service chainsaws.

1.2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide chainsaw operators and their employers with guidance related to—

- (a) guarding and safe use of chainsaws, and
- (b) conditions prevailing in areas where chainsaws are used.

It is not intended that this Standard should cover all work situations, e.g. tree lopping and arboricultural activities involving chainsaws are not covered.

NOTE: For comprehensive information concerning a particular application, regulatory authorities and timber training organizations should be contacted.

1.3 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1269	Acoustics—Hearing conservation
1270	Acoustics—Hearing protectors
1319	Safety signs for the occupational environment
1470	Health and safety at work—Principles and practices
1801	Industrial safety helmets (incorporating Amdt 1)
2726	Chainsaws—Safety requirements
2726.1	Chainsaws for general use
2906	Fuel containers—Portable—Plastics and metal