

Under revision see DR94217  
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# Australian Standard® 3575-1988

## BRUSHCUTTERS— SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/33, Chainsaw Safety. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 15 July 1988 and published on 12 September 1988.

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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 86173.*

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD**

**BRUSHCUTTERS—  
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

**AS 3575—1988**

First published as AS 3575—1988.

**PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

ISBN 0 7262 5203 4

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Chainsaw Safety under the supervision of the Safety Standards Board. It sets out the minimum safety requirements for electrically driven or engine-driven brushcutters and provides details on the design and construction of brushcutters including conditions for testing.

Appendices describe the relevant test methods necessary for determination of the levels of hand-transmitted vibration, airborne noise, and mechanical strength of guards.

This Standard does not list recommendations for the safe use of brushcutters. Guidance for safe working with brushcutters is covered in AS 3576, *Brushcutters—Guide to safe working practices*.

This Standard does not prescribe specific methods for the measurement of emitted noise for the purpose of hearing conservation programs. Reference should be made to AS 3534, *Acoustics—Method for measurement of airborne noise emitted by powered lawn mowers, edge and brushcutters, and string trimmers*.

During the development of the Standard, reference was made to documentation circulated by ISO/TC23/SC17. Acknowledgement is made of the assistance received from this source.

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## BRUSHCUTTERS—SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This Standard specifies safety requirements for electrically driven or engine-driven brushcutters intended for use in clearing grass, weeds, brush, shrubs, and small trees.

**1.2 APPLICATION.**

**1.2.1 Electrical safety.** This Standard does not include the electrical safety requirements which must be observed to secure approval for connection or sale of electrically driven brushcutters. An electrically driven brushcutter shall, in addition to complying with this Standard, comply with AS 3160.

**1.2.2 Regulations.** The requirements of this Standard shall be read in conjunction with the special regulations applicable to the use of brushcutters issued by the Regulatory Authorities.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The documents below are referred to in this Standard.

## AS

- 1019 Internal combustion engines—Spark emission control devices
- 1259 Sound level meters
- 1319 Safety signs for the occupational environment
- 2763 Vibration and shock—Hand-transmitted vibration—Measurement and medical scoring
- 2775 Vibration and shock—Mechanical mounting of accelerometers
- 3160 Approval and test specification—Hand-held portable electric tools

## SAE

- J335b Multiposition small engine exhaust system fire ignition suppression

**1.4 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

**1.4.1 Accompanying documents—**documents accompanying the brushcutter containing all important information for the user, in particular that relevant to safety.

**1.4.2 Angular transmission—**device for transmitting power from the transmission shaft to the cutting device.

**1.4.3 Brushcutter—**mechanical, portable hand-held device for cutting, mowing and edging of grass, and clearing of brush, weeds, shrubs, and small trees. It comprises a source of motive power and driving mechanism consisting of a drive shaft propelling a saw blade, or other cutting device.

**1.4.4 Clutch—**device for connecting and disconnecting a driven member to and from a rotating source of power.

**1.4.5 Cutting devices.**

**1.4.5.1 Saw blade—**metal disc with peripheral cutting teeth.

**1.4.5.2 Cutter blade—**multibladed cutting device for the clearing of grass, weeds, or shrubs, made from rubber, plastics, or metal.

**1.4.5.3 Mowing head—**device for trimming or mowing grass and weeds by means of—

- (a) a head with monofilament line made of synthetic material; or
- (b) pivot mounted thermoplastics blades.

**1.4.6 Handles.**

**1.4.6.1 'U' handle—**bicycle type handlebars for manoeuvring the brushcutter.

**1.4.6.2 One-hand handle—**one-hand grip for manoeuvring the brushcutter and used in conjunction with a rear handle or grip.

**1.4.6.3 Loop handle—**semicircular or delta type handle for manoeuvring the brushcutter and used in conjunction with a rear handle or grip.

**1.4.6.4 Rear handle or grip—**supporting handle or grip located at or towards the rear mounted on the shaft tube of the brushcutter.

**1.4.7 Harness—**assembly comprising straps or belt or both by means of which the brushcutter is suspended from the operator.

**1.4.8 Hip pad—**strap or pad, fastened to the brushcutter or to the harness, to provide protection from impacts and excessive vibration.

**1.4.9 Kick-back—**uncontrolled sudden accidental motion, which may occur when the cutting device contacts an object, e.g. sapling, tree stump, or other obstacle.

**1.4.10 Muffler—**device for reducing engine exhaust noise and directing the exhaust gases.

**1.4.11 On/off control—**to switch on or off the ignition of an engine-driven brushcutter or the power supply to an electrically driven brushcutter to allow the power drive to be started or stopped.

**1.4.12 Regulatory Authority—**Minister of the Crown, a government department, or other public authority having power to issue regulations, order or other instructions having the force of law in respect of any subject covered by this Standard.

**1.4.13 Safety devices.**

**1.4.13.1 Saw blade/cutter blade guard—**device covering the rear part of the saw blade or cutter blade to provide protection for the operator.

**1.4.13.2 Saw blade/cutter blade cover—**removable cover protecting the saw blade or cutter blade during transport.