

Australian Standard[®]

**Clearing saws, brushcutters
and grass trimmers—Safety
requirements**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/33, Chainsaw Safety. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 19 July 1995 and published on 4 December 1995.

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/33:

Australian National University
Australian Timber Trainers Association
Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, Western Australia
Department of Primary Industries, Qld Forest Service
Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
Occupational Health and Safety Authority, Victoria
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PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7337 0012 8

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Chainsaw Safety to supersede AS 3575—1988, *Brushcutters—Safety requirements*.

This edition incorporates technical changes which have been introduced into related ISO Standards and other documents which are under consideration by the responsible technical committee. Other changes include—

- (a) updating of reference documents;
- (b) adoption of the terms clearing saw, brushcutter and grass trimmer to describe the styles of units covered by this Standard; and
- (c) editorial changes in accordance with Standards Australia policy.

This Standard does not give recommendations for the safe use of clearing saws, brushcutters and grass trimmers. Guidance for safe working is covered in AS 3576, *Brushcutters—Guide to safe working practices*.

This Standard does not prescribe specific methods for the measurement of sound power levels 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 this Standard, reference was made to the following documentation:

ISO

- 7916:1989 Forestry machinery—Portable brush-saws—Measurement of hand-transmitted vibration
- 7917:1987 Acoustics—Measurement at the operator's position of airborne noise emitted by brush saws
- 7918:1985 Forestry machinery—Portable brush saws—Circular saw-blade guard—Dimensions
- 8380:1993 Forestry machinery—Portable brush saws—Circular saw-blade—Strength
- 9467:1993 Forestry machinery—Portable chainsaws and brushcutters—Exhaust system-caused fire risk
- 11682:1993 Brush cutters and grass-trimmers—Technical data

ISO/DIS

- 11806 Manually portable forestry machinery—Brushcutters and grass-trimmers—Safety requirements and testing

The assistance gained from these documents is acknowledged.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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Originated as AS 3575—1988.
Second edition 1995.

Incorporating:
Amdt 1—1997

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Clearing saws, brushcutters and grass trimmers—Safety requirements

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

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

This Standard is not applicable to backpack power units, dedicated lawn edge trimmers, pole pruners or lawn trimmers complying with AS 4057.

1.2 APPLICATION This Standard is intended for use in conjunction with regulations issued by regulatory authorities and applicable to the use of clearing saws, brushcutters and grass trimmers.

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

AS

1270 Acoustics—Hearing protectors

1319 Safety signs for the occupational environment

2763 Vibration and shock—Hand-transmitted vibration—Guidelines for measurement and assessment of human exposure

4057 Powered walk-behind and hand-held lawn trimmers and lawn edge trimmers—Mechanical safety requirements and test methods

AS/NZS

3160 Approval and test specifications—Hand-held portable electric tools

ISO

7916 Forestry machinery—Portable brush-saws—Measurement of hand-transmitted vibration

7917 Acoustics—Measurement at the operator's position of airborne noise emitted by brush saw

9467 Forestry machinery—Portable chain-saws and brush-cutters—Exhaust system-caused fire risk

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

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

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

1.4.3 Brushcutter—a mechanical hand-held device with a rotating blade made of metal or plastic intended to cut weed, brush, shrubs and similar vegetation (see Figures 1.1 and 1.2).

1.4.4 Clearing saw—a mechanical hand-held device with a rotating metal saw blade intended to cut brush, shrubs, small trees and similar vegetation (see Figures 1.1 and 1.2).