

TOOLBOX TALK

20. BCS AUTO-SCYTHE

What?



- Auto-scythes are versatile and powerful petrol-powered machines used for cutting vegetation and scrub.
- They are ideal for managing all types of environments and are widely used in meadows, woodlands, reedbeds, orchards, paddocks, pathways and conservation sites.

Why?

- Auto-scythes will cut vegetation of any height up to 1" diameter. Typical applications include cutting long grass, brambles, bracken, gorse, wildflowers, reeds, thistles, nettles, weeds and saplings.
- The auto-scythe should only be used by those trained to do so.
- Safe handling of the machine should be employed when moving it to and from the minibus, including use of the trolley for moving the cutter bar.
- The scythe cutter bar should be detached and clamped to the side of the minibus with the guard on.
- The machine should be stowed with the parking brake on, in gear.



Do ✓

- ✓ Read the relevant RAMS & Auto-scythe Induction
- ✓ Check the site for any dangers
- ✓ Undertake the relevant safety checks before starting the engine
- ✓ Use a 'Spotter', a person to check for danger. Stay clear of the machine if you are not operating it (minimum of 15m)
- ✓ Stand well in front and to the side of the machine if you need to attract the operator's attention, and wave your arms
- ✓ Use the engine to move the auto-scythe when moving it long distances, to prevent straining and injury
- ✓ Ensure that the blades are cleaned using a wire brush to remove as much dirt, mud and vegetation as possible after use
- ✓ Use the red plastic blade guard when transporting the auto-scythe, to prevent injury

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't operate the auto-scythe without wearing the correct PPE:
 - Ear defenders (should also be worn by people working close by the machine)
 - Steel toe capped boots
 - Thick gloves
- ✗ Don't let anyone come up behind the operator whilst the machine is on or walk in front of the machine
- ✗ Don't leave the machine running without an operator
- ✗ Don't operate the auto-scythe if you are feeling tired or too hot; take regular breaks & stay hydrated

Document Name	<i>TBT BCS Auto-scythe</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 20</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>07.06.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Fatigue; Hearing Protection; Machinery; Manual Handling; Petroleum Products; PPE</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>