

## **APPENDIX B – Lawn Mowing Equipment – General**

Lawn mowing equipment must be equipped with safety switches and guards (if provided by the manufacturer). To prevent hazards associated with the use of lawn mowing equipment, workers shall observe the following general precautions:

### **General Safety:**

- Read and understand the operator's manual for proper applications, limitations, operation, and hazards that are associated with the equipment;
- Operators shall direct the discharge away from people or parked cars. If a pedestrian approaches and is within range of the discharge, STOP and wait for the pedestrian to pass by. If infeasible to mow safely near pedestrians, eating areas, or vehicles, than mowing schedules shall be altered.
- Ensure electric lawn mowing equipment is properly grounded. In wet or damp locations, Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets or GFCI extension cords shall be used;
- Ensure that cords from electric lawn mowing equipment do not present a tripping hazard;
- Keep all people not involved with the work at a safe distance from the work area;
- Maintain proper footing and balance when operating lawn mowing equipment;
- Inspect lawn mowing equipment for damage before each use. Remove all damaged lawn mowing equipment from use and tag them: "Out of Service, Do Not Use";
- Do not mow when there is insufficient lighting for the task (unless the mower is equipped with head lights);
- Do not operate mowers on slopes that exceed the angle limits specified by the manufacturer. Look for a label on the mower or information in the operator's manual;
- Before starting the engine, make sure the transmission is not in gear and the mower blade clutch is disengaged;
- Never allow extra riders on the lawn mower;
- If a large rock or stump is hit, stop the mower and inspect the blades and shaft for damage. If damage is found, take the mower out of service until repairs have been made;
- Keep hands and feet away from moving blades and hot parts;
- When refueling gas-powered mowers, shut the engine off, utilize a funnel or gas can with a nozzle extension that fits into the gas tank opening. If a funnel or nozzle are not used, then allow the engine to cool before refueling; and
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as outlined in section 3.3. In addition, if working in close proximity to vehicular traffic, a visibility vest shall also be worn.

## General Requirements:

- Power lawnmowers of the walk-behind, riding-rotary, and reel power lawnmowers shall be guarded in accordance with the machine guarding requirements in [29 CFR 1910.212](#), General requirements for all machines.
- All power-driven chains, belts, and gears shall be so positioned or otherwise guarded to prevent the operator's accidental contact therewith, during normal starting, mounting, and operation of the machine.
- A shutoff device shall be provided to stop operation of the motor or engine. This device shall require manual and intentional reactivation to restart the motor or engine.
- All positions of the operating controls shall be clearly identified.
- The words, "Caution. Be sure the operating control(s) is in neutral before starting the engine," or similar wording shall be clearly visible at an engine starting control point on self-propelled mowers.
- The mower blade shall be enclosed except on the bottom and the enclosure shall extend to or below the lowest cutting point of the blade in the lowest blade position.
- Guards which must be removed to install a catcher assembly shall comply with the following:
  - Warning instructions shall be affixed to the mower near the opening stating that the mower shall not be used without either the catcher assembly or the guard in place.
  - The catcher assembly or the guard shall be shipped and sold as part of the mower.
  - The instruction manual shall state that the mower shall not be used without either the catcher assembly or the guard in place.
  - The catcher assembly, when properly and completely installed, shall not create a condition which violates the limits given for the guarded opening.
  - Openings in the blade enclosure, intended for the discharge of grass, shall be limited to a maximum vertical angle of the opening of 30 deg. Measurements shall be taken from the lowest blade position.
  - The word "Caution." or stronger wording, shall be placed on the mower at or near each discharge opening.
- Blade(s) shall stop rotating from the manufacturer's specified maximum speed within 15 seconds after declutching, or shutting off power.
- In a multi-piece blade, the means of fastening the cutting members to the body of the blade or disc shall be so designed that they will not become worn to a hazardous condition before the cutting members themselves are worn beyond use.

The maximum tip speed of any blade shall be 19,000 feet per minute.