

## APPENDIX D – Riding Rotary Mowers

- Blade Enclosure.
  - The highest point(s) of all openings in the blade enclosure front shall be limited by a vertical angle of opening of 15 deg. and a maximum distance of 1 1/4 inches above the lowest cutting point of the blade in the lowest blade position.
  - Opening(s) shall be placed so that grass or debris will not discharge directly toward any part of an operator seated in a normal operator position.
  - There shall be one of the following at all openings in the blade enclosure intended for the discharge of grass:
    - A minimum unobstructed horizontal distance of 6 inches from the end of the discharge chute to the blade tip circle.
    - A rigid bar fastened across the discharge opening, secured to prevent removal without the use of tools. The bottom of the bar shall be no higher than the bottom edge of the blade enclosure.
- Stops
  - Mowers shall be provided with stops to prevent jackknifing or locking of the steering mechanism.
- Brakes
  - Vehicle stopping means shall be provided.
- Controls
  - Hand-operated wheel drive disengaging controls shall move opposite to the direction of vehicle motion in order to disengage the drive. Foot-operated wheel drive disengaging controls shall be depressed to disengage the drive. Deadman controls, both hand and foot operated, shall automatically interrupt power to a drive when the operator's actuating force is removed, and may operate in any direction to disengage the drive.
  - A key switch, or similar device, shall be provided to prevent unauthorized operation.
  - Equip riding mowers with an operator presence control system that shuts off the blades when the operator dismounts the machine or rises out of the seat.
  - Equip riding mowers with interlocks that ensure that the engine cannot start while the mower is in gear or if the blade is engaged. Inspect mowers to ensure that operator presence systems and all safety features are always in place and operable.
- Pedal
  - Foot pedal shall have slip resistant surfaces or other means of minimizing the possibility of the operator's foot slipping off the pedals.
- ROPS (roll-over protective structure)
  - Mowers with a ROPS should also be equipped with a seat belt. Provide and use approved seat belt assemblies on all riding lawn mowers on which a ROPS has been installed.
  - If the mower a worker will be using does not have a ROPS, look for unused bolt holes or brackets near the seat or frame to see if the mower should be equipped with a ROPS. Do not operate any mower that was intended to be equipped with a ROPS without its ROPS in place. In many cases, retrofit kits are available. Contact the manufacturer to see if there is a kit for the mower you will be using.
  - Where vertical clearance does not allow for a ROPS to be in the raised (active) position, the ROPS may be temporarily placed in the lowered (inactive) position. Also, workers should not wear a seat belt while operating a riding mower with the ROPS in the lowered position. Return the ROPS to the raised position as soon as the riding mower is in an area where the vertical clearance allows its use and reconnect the seat belt.