Risk assessment for : Malc Firth Landscapes Limited

Risk assessment name	Use of hand held power tools	**Assessment type**	General
Assessor name	Peter Swain	**Affected site(s)**	Malc Firth Landscapes Limited (PE20 2HY)
Assessment date	02/10/23	**Review period**	Annually
Approved by	Peter Swain	**Review date**	02/10/24
Approved date	02/10/23	**Reference**	Mal1959013

Description
This Risk Assessment is an example only and must be reviewed/amended to suit your own business practices and working environment.

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how?	Existing controls	Risk rating (L x S)

 Dust Potential to impair vision / be inhaled, irritant to skin.	Operators How? Respiratory illness, occupational asthma, skin irritation, damage to eye.	 **Adequate ventilation provided** Natural Ventilation Provided where sufficient. Where required temporary extraction to be used (checked and inspected for effectiveness).  **Minimise dust production and collection** Follow work procedures to minimise dust production such as wet working. Clean up dust frequently. NO AIR BLOW OFF PERMITTED  **Stop activity** Stop activity if visibility is reduced through dust.  **Health awareness and surveillance.** Health screening questionnaire carried out to monitor ill health. Employees referred to occupational or health care professional where ill health is indicated.  **Relevant dust mask provided and used** Relevant dust mask to approved standard provided and employees sign to receive and acknowledge understanding. Supervision to ensure compliance. Ensure mask fits correctly.  **Training** Staff made aware of the signs and symptoms and risks from working with dust and how to report concerns and reduce these risks.	2 x 3  6 Medium

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how?	Existing controls	Risk rating (L x S)
 Electrical Hand tools Faulty equipment, contact with live electrical components or improper use.	All staff How? Electric shock, burns, fire.	**Area checked For Cables** Check cable locations through plans, drawings and cable scanning before work starts. **Competent operators** Staff trained in safe use of the equipment, supervised where required and follow safe systems of work. **Electrical Equipment Fit for Purpose** Suitable item of equipment for the task is selected in accordance with PUWER 98 regulations. Tools as suitable and safe. Class 1 earthed or Class 2 doubly insulated. **Electrical equipment not used with wet hands** **Electrical equipment not used with wet hands** staff trained in safe use of hand held power tools. **Electrical Safety Check Undertaken** Pre use checks carried out before - plugs, cables, casing . Formal visual inspections carried out by competent person and recorded. **Ensure tools are checked for electrical safety by competent person** As well as pre-use checks, formal visual inspections there will be a combined inspection and test (PAT) carried out by competent person and records kept. **Use low voltage battery powered hand tools** Use 110v or battery or RCD where appropriate. **Users aware of their environmental surroundings** No work carried out near water, wet floors. Caution on surfaces which are good conductors such as the outdoors, concrete and scaffolding.	2 x 3  6 Medium

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how?	Existing controls	Risk rating (L x S)
 Explosion / Flammable Atmosphere Heat generated by use of tools causes fire or explosion in the conditions due to the atmosphere such as compressed gasses.	All staff Anyone in the vicinity of the works How? Burns, shrapnel wounds,	 **Hot work not carried out in the vicinity of combustible materials** Work will not be carried out near flammable or compressed gases or in explosive atmospheres or confined spaces without specialist advice and procedures.  **Hot works by permit to work only** Equipment that generates heat will not be used in explosive/ flammable or confined spaces without the relevant hot works permit.	2 x 3  6 Medium
 Flying Debris Being struck by debris, swarf ejected from work,	All staff Those in the immediate vicinity How? Eye, hand or facial injury.	 **Debris guards in place where appropriate** If tools are equipped with debris guards they should be fitted and checked daily.  **Eye protection and gloves (where appropriate) provided and worn by operatives** Eye protection provided and worn (employees to sign for receipt and understanding of use). If gloves are appropriate and do not present risk of entanglement they should be provided and worn and employees to sign for receipt and understanding.  **Restricted access to the work area** Isolate the area with barriers/ tape to prevent access.  **Warn those working in vicinity of the hazard** Advise those working nearby that there may be debris from the work.	2 x 4  8 Medium

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how?	Existing controls	Risk rating (L x S)
 Inappropriate use or misuse of tools Operators not trained, or horseplay or lack of supervision leading to misuse of equipment.	Operators Others in the vicinity How? Cuts and abrasions, shrapnel wounds, electric shock, impaling.	 **Competent operator** Staff trained in safe use and systems of work. supervised appropriately to ensure safe working practices and unsafe behaviours challenged and corrected.  **Tool is appropriate for the job according to instructions** Manufacturers instructions are followed for use of the equipment. Equipment is fit for the job intended.  **Tools stored securely when not in use** Prevent unauthorised access to tools when not in use.	2 x 3  Medium
 Manual Handling Poor working postures, repeated movements, cold environments, manipulation of tools in small awkward spaces.	Operators How? Musculo-skeletal injuries.	 **Adequate room for the task** Ensure there is adequate room for the task to be carried out without the need for prolonged awkward postures or repeated poor posture conditions.  **Manual handling training** All staff are trained in Manual Handling and instructed to comply with good manual handling techniques.  **Minimise time using heavy/ awkward equipment** Job rotation to reduce the amount of time spent on tasks using heavy or awkward equipment.  **Safety Boots provided** EN approved safety boots provided. Employees signed for receipt and understanding of safe use.  **Suspension support systems used where appropriate** Use of jigs, suspension systems where appropriate to support the use of heavy equipment such as large grinders. Ensure these are suitable and risk assessed for use and inspected and pre use checks carried out.	2 x 3  Medium

Hazard	Who could be harmed and how?	Existing controls	Risk rating (L x S)
 Moving parts of machinery Danger of bodily Injury through contact with moving parts if guards not present or not working.	All staff How? Entanglement in moving parts of hair or clothing or jewellery.	**All machinery is fitted with appropriate guards which are checked daily** Where appropriate to the tool in use guards must be in place and checked for integrity. Refer to manufactures instructions. **Competent operator** Operators trained and supervised to an appropriate standard. **Avoid Loose Clothing and tie back hair** Avoid Loose Clothing and tie hair back. Assess the risk from watches and jewellery in relation to tools used.	2 x 3  Medium
 Noise Potential of hearing loss due to excessive exposure to noise, or prolonged exposure.	All staff, Operators How? Work related hearing loss.	**Carry out a noise assessment** Refer to manufacture data or use calibrated equipment to carry out a noise assessment. Lower Action Value 80dBA, Upper Action Value of 85dBA and Exposure limit value of 87dBA. **Health Surveillance and screening** Use of questionnaire to screen for hearing issues, refer to occupational or health professional where ill health is identified. **Hearing Protection provided where appropriate and worn** If noise assessment identifies 80dB or if staff report ill health due to noise then provide hearing protection to relevant standard. Staff to sign for receipt and understanding of use. Supervise to ensure compliance. **Staff made aware of work related hearing loss** Staff made aware of the signs and symptoms and noise action levels and how to report concerns. **Equipment maintained and repaired** To keep in good running order to reduce the noise output ensure the equipment is maintained according to manufacturers recommendations.	2 x 3  Medium

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 Slips, trips and falls Poor housekeeping or unsafe working practices whilst handling the tools, especially is in use.	All staff How? Cuts, amputations, serious injuries on moving parts or sharp unguarded parts. Impale on protruding parts.	**Avoid Trailing Cables** Organise the work activity, power sources, cables in such a way to reduce trailing cables and warn / advise others in the area of the presence of any cables. **Clear up spillages immediately** Dust, liquid, spillages cleared up immediately. **Good Housekeeping Observed** Tools, work area, dust, debris, packaging organised in such a way to prevent slips, trips and falls. **Work carried out on suitable stable platform**	2 x 3  Medium
 Tool jam/ binding Jarring of machine, catching of machine parts.	Operators How? Wrist, hand or upper limb injury. Musculo-skeletal injury.	**Appropriate tool is used in correct manner** Ensure the correct tool, accessories and fittings are correct for the task and is used in accordance with manufacturers guidelines. **Competent operator** Operators trained and supervised to correct use and application of tools for the jobs. **Tools maintained and repaired appropriately** Tools maintained and repaired in accordance with manufacturers instructions to ensure it remains effective for the tasks.	2 x 3  Medium

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Hazard	Who could be harmed and how?	Existing controls	Risk rating (L x S)
 Vibration & Vibrating Tools Repeated use, prolonged use, tools with excessive vibration, cold conditions, awkward posture	Operators How? Prolonged use and exposure to vibrating tools may cause ongoing health issues such as Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.	**Equipment maintained and repaired** Equipment stored, repaired and maintained according to manufacturers instructions to keep in a smooth running order and reduce the vibrations. **Follow guidelines for use from manufacturers** Follow the working times contained in the booklet, on label or refer to industry guidance for vibration levels or use the HSE Ready Reckoning calculator to identify working times not to be exceeded. **Health awareness and surveillance.** Use of questionnaires to monitor health conditions. Hand checks by competent person. Employees referred to occupational or healthcare professional if ill health is identified. **Minimise time spent using that equipment** Job rotation onto non vibration tasks, person rotation to minimise the amount of time spent on the vibrating task. **Selection and use of low vibration tools** Refer to manufacture guidelines for vibration output and select tools of lowest vibration output. **Staff made aware of health risk** Staff informed of signs and symptoms of hand arm vibration. How to reduce the occurrence and how to report concerns. **Vibration Assessment Undertaken** Identify vibration magnitude from manufacturers data and finger on trigger observations. Then calculate exposure using Hand-Arm Vibration Calculator on HSE website. Note typical exposures for action. Consider working environment, working postures.	2 x 3  6 Medium

Further control measures

Assessor's signature: Peter Swain

Approved by signature: Peter Swain