Task Risk Control Sheet

Maintain Vegetation – Motor Manual – Brush Cutting/Scrub Clearance

RCS No: NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/OT09
Issue: 4

Key Risks !

- **Struck by Train**
- **Manual Handling**
- **Underfoot Conditions**
- **Work with clearing saws**
- **Work with hand tools**

Personnel Involved		
	E&P	
	S&T	
	Track	
	Off Track	✓
	Property	✓

Tools / Equipment Strimmers, Bush Cutters, Clearing Saws, Hand Tools

Plant None

ALL WORK USING MECHANIZED TOOLS ON OR NEAR THE LINE SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN IN A GREEN ZONE

Key Risks	Controls	Implemented By
Trains	• See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA01 – Work On or Near the Line	All Staff
Underfoot conditions	• See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH02 – Underfoot Conditions • Cut vegetation shall be cleared as work progresses • Hand tools, etc shall be kept in a safe place so they do not become a trip hazard • Conduct pre-site survey to assess ground conditions and brief all staff on hazards • Check on usage of land and conditions, especially significant changes in elevated gradient • Monitor conditions on an ongoing basis; if circumstances change, especially significant changes in elevated gradient or height, cease work and review safe system of work	All Staff
Manual Handling	• See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GH01 – Manual Handling • Use a harness for supporting clearing machines which shall be fitted and adjusted correctly Check that the handles of clearing machines give a comfortable work stance • Check that the weight of the clearing saw is spread evenly over both shoulders and that the blade hangs straight in front of you • When using hand tools maintain a firm stance and that there is enough clear, unimpeded space to swing the cutting tool safely	All Staff
Fuelling of clearing machines including: • Fire / Explosion • Contact with fuel	• See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA17 – Decanting Fuel and Fueling Small Plant	All Staff
Lone Workers	• See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA05 – Lone Working	Line Manager

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Key Risks	Controls	Implemented By
Darkness / Poor Visibility	• Where possible all work shall be performed during daylight • Where not possible suitable and sufficient lighting shall be provided see guidance below • See Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/SP16 – Use of Site Lighting • Lighting should be reviewed during the activity so that moving parts of power tools are visible to the operator at all times	All Staff

In line with the HSE Guidance 38, Lighting at Work, the following minima and average lighting levels shall be established for the various activities involved, this is the definition of suitable and sufficient for the purposes of this document.

Activity	Minimum Lighting Level	Average Lighting Level
Site access	5 Lux	5 Lux
Site preparation	20 Lux	50 Lux
Chipping	20 Lux	50 Lux
De-veg activities (inc chain saw) at ground level	50 Lux	100 Lux
Tree climbing and use of chain saws at height	100 Lux	200 Lux

Achieved lighting levels shall be checked using a light meter at the point of activity prior to work commencing.

All Tasks including: • Contact with thorns, brambles, wire fencing, etc • Being struck by objects • Snake bites, stings • Contact with OHLE or DC electrified line or utility services	• HV Clothing (All Orange), safety helmet, eye protection, gloves, ear defenders, safety footwear, dust mask (as required) shall be worn for the task being undertaken as described in this RCS • Stand clear of falling branches when pruning • Perform a Pre-site survey to check for hazards such as snakes, bee or wasp nests • See Risk Control sheets NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA20 Working Adjacent to DC Electrified Rails Risk Level 1- 5, • See Task Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA21 - Working Near Electrical Overhead Line Equipment • Perform a pre-site survey to identify utility services – where necessary they shall be protected moved or isolated • Check for dangerous weeds such as giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam.	All Staff
Use of hand weeding, brush or pruning tools including: Contact with sharp parts Striking obstructions or other people Defective tools	• Non mechanised Tools only shall be used in Red Zone Working • Avoid contact with sharp edges • Blades shall be guarded or sheathed when not in use • Where activities involve the use of hand tools only and do not involve the using of either a Strimmer, Brush Cutter, or Clearing Saw, then the following protective clothing shall be worn: HV Clothing (All Orange), safety helmet, eye protection (visor or goggles) to BS EN166.B, gloves, safety footwear, dusk mask when applicable. • When using a short handled hook keep the free hand well away from the cutting direction • Do not stand astride saw handles • Maintain a safe working distance of 15 metres between staff working with Motorised equipment • Conduct pre-site survey to identify obstructions • Check maintenance, setting and sharpening is performed in accordance to manufacturer's instructions • Pre-use checks that blades are not loose and check for missing parts • Check tools for damage e.g. cracks, splinters • Clean blades periodically during the day	All Staff

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