

## Risk Assessment For Operation Of Pre-coated Chip Spreader.

### Un-loading

- Ensure chip hopper is secure on the rails. If de-railed it can fall on operator on the way down ramps.
- Ensure all drive chains are free of damage. (Broken chains are common and will result in loss of drive and controllability)
- When starting engine ensure neutral is selected, and that the hand brake is on.
- Positively engage starter handle in engine and grip firmly, ensure you have a good footing on the ground. Do not wrap thumb around handle as a backfire can result in a broken thumb.
- When turning handle bend knees and be careful not to twist back, as injury to back can result.
- When doing all of the above ensure no loose clothing can get caught up in moving parts.
- Ensure loading ramps are secure, and that they are set At the correct distance apart.
- The normal direction of descent is to reverse down the ramps,
- be sure that the way is clear. Engage reverse and release the handbrake. Stand clear to the side, not on the footplate. You will not be able to stop once the descent down the ramps has started, so you may as well stand clear to one side.
- On the way down do not attempt to stop the machine because if you brake or de-clutch the descent will quicken. Therefore all alignments with the ramps should be done before commencing a descent. **Failure to observe the above procedures could result in bodily injury or death.**



#### Loading On To The Trailer

- Make sure the trailer is on level ground.
- The machine is loaded from the side.
- The location should be selected to avoid traffic congestion where possible, the ground ideally should be clean and dry to prevent tyres picking up dirt on the treads which can result in loss of traction when climbing up the ramps.
- The ramps must be securely placed and free of dirt. Course grit can be used to aid traction.
- Only use first gear
- Once lined up and on your way you are committed. **Don't stop**, or you shall come back with a crash. In these situations the brakes are useless. If things look shakey at any time abandon and let it go, **Life before property**
- A safe margin for error should be allowed for avoiding damage to parked vehicles and property. For example if for what ever reason the machine was only able to climb halfway before loosing grip, the eventual result would be a rapid return to the ground again, if a car was parked close by it would be hit by the machine. **Give yourself room.**
- When on top of the trailer. Apply handbrake then select neutral.
- Chock wheels and switch off engine.
- Stow loose objects safely.

Only operate this machine if experienced or you have received instruction.

## Pre-Coated Chipper General

- There are 3 forward gears and one reverse gear. 1<sup>st</sup> gear is the slowest and it is to be found in the bottom right hand corner of the H pattern. It is to be used for climbing up ramps and when actually laying chippings.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> gear is for manoeuvring, travelling and chip laying. To be found in the top right hand corner of the H pattern.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> gear is for travelling on site and should not be used for laying chippings or for manoeuvring in confined spaces, as there is a risk of hitting something or someone. To be found in the top left hand corner.
- Reverse is quite low geared and is used for manoeuvring and un-loading off trailer. It is not to be used in the chip laying process.
- There is a hand/foot brake midway across the machine. Two steering levers which work the clutch and brakes are located centrally also. The steering levers can also be operated from either side of the machine, therefore the machine is pedestrian operated which leads to the risk of the operator getting himself run over. Therefore diligence must be used at all times.
- The clutch lever is next to the gear lever, and must be used when gears are selected. It is not correct practise to hold a stationary position on the clutch alone. It is best to engage the brake before neutral is selected to prevent roll back.

There are quite a few identifiable hazards associated with the operation of this machine.

- Although it will undoubtedly be the slowest moving machine on the job, it is **more** likely to catch somebody by its stealth, crush injuries can result in broken limbs internal damage and even loss of life. Vigilance is paramount. It is tempting to try to do too many things at once thus not keeping a good eye on what the machine is doing. The operator is responsible for this.
- Loose clothes can get caught in moving parts.
- Fingers, hands and feet can get caught in moving parts, therefore all guards must be in place.
- The feed hopper is very quick in operation, it can catch the unsuspecting by surprise, resulting possibly in a head injury. Wear a hard hat and be aware before you start of how fast the thing can move. Do not lean your hands on the slide rail of the feed hopper, your fingers could be sliced off like a guillotine.

Due to the antiquated design of this machine, it lacks electric and it has virtually no hydraulic systems. Therefore it is not possible to incorporate modern safety systems. As the need for this type of machine is diminishing with more modern surfacing processes there is no likelihood of a modern safer design coming along in the future, therefore the only safe course of action is to be extremely vigilant and thoughtful when operating this machine.