

SAFETY/RISK/HAZARD ASSESSMENT

PLANT INFORMATION

NHG Ref/Part No.	CHAINSAW2
Plant Name:	Stihl 18" MS251 Chain Saw
Potential Noise Level in Db:	110db to less than 115db
Required hearing protection class:	5
Operator Competency:	Plant Licence Not Required



Protective
equipment
must be worn
when operating
this machine



RISK ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Potential Hazard(s)

Injury from contact with moving parts

Risk Level High

Control Measures

Chainsaws are designed for right hand operations unless specifically labelled otherwise. Use right hand for throttle only. Left arm should be fully extended, holding the handle with thumb placed under handle at all times, which will help to divert the saw over the operator's body in the event of kickback.

Make sure all operators are competent in the use of the chainsaw and that the saw is in good working order and properly maintained.

Familiarise all users with safe use practice and emergency stop procedures and always keep first aid supplies on hand.

Do not use at height or when standing on a ladder unless trained to do so and ladder is securely fastened in position.

Remain alert and aware of potential dangers/risks.

Never operate if fatigued, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Chainsaws are designed for one person operation only.

Avoid working alone. If not possible, ensure procedures are in place should an emergency occur (keep first aid kit, mobile phone, etc. within arms reach)

Protective clothing/equipment including eye & ear protection and fully enclosed footwear must be worn at all times during operation.

Do not remove protective guards. Ensure bar cover is fitted while not in use.

Keep all loose clothing, limbs, hair away from moving parts.

Always hold saw firmly with both hands to avoid/minimise kickback or slippage.

Maintain firm footage. Avoid working on uneven or slippery terrain.

Avoid overreaching.

Do not use saw above shoulder height.

Ensure chain is tight and teeth sharp

Cut only on full power

Do not begin cutting with the upper half of the nose of the blade.

Injury from impact/projectile

Risk Level	High
Control Measures	<p>Ensure all persons are clear of the fall zone when felling trees</p> <p>Avoid standing directly under limbs being cut.</p> <p>Determine suitable escape route to the rear and diagonal to the line of fall of a tree. Never stand directly behind the tree being felled.</p> <p>Wear adequate protective equipment to avoid injury from debris ejected from material being cut.</p> <p>Keep body parts away from falling cut material or branches which may 'whip' back and strike operator.</p> <p>Never use body parts to brace or prop material being cut.</p>

Hearing Damage

Risk Level	Medium/High
Control Measures	Hearing protection with a rating of SLC80db 26-360Db must be worn. Note warning label on unit.

Explosion or fire from fuel vapours

Risk Level	Medium
Control Measures	Stop engine before refuelling. Do not refuel while hot. Avoid spillage of fuel when refuelling. Ensure the fuel cap is properly secured after refuelling. Carry out visual checks for fuel leaks and repair before operation. Keep flammables away from the engine. Do not smoke while operating, servicing or refuelling this machine.

Injury or ill health due to exposure to exhaust or fuel fumes

Risk Level	Medium
Control Measures	Do not operate in confined space. Use in well ventilated area, preferably with fume extraction ventilation. Avoid breathing or coming into contact with fuel.

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation if working outdoors

Risk Level	Medium
Control Measures	Wear sunscreen, hat, long sleeves and long pants.

Burn hazard

Risk Level	Medium/Low
Control Measures	Wear protective clothing during operation. Avoid contact with hot components. Never operate the engine with heat shields removed.

KEY OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

STARTING THE ENGINE

From Cold

1. Place the chainsaw on level ground with the blade clear of ground
2. Remove bar cover
3. Activate chain brake (located in front of front handle) by pushing it forward
4. Press decompression valve (if fitted)
5. If chainsaw is fitted with a primer bulb, press it several times
6. Set the master control to Choke/Cold Start
7. Put one foot on the rear handle plate and left hand on the front handle
8. Pull the starter cord firmly with right
9. When engine starts, touch the throttle trigger briefly (the master control lever will move back to the normal idle setting)
10. Carefully lift the chainsaw, taking care not to touch the throttle trigger
11. Move to the cutting area and release the chain brake by pulling it toward you with your left hand
12. Using the throttle trigger, reach maximum chain speed before attempting cut

From Hot

Use the same method as above without the use of Choke

ENGINE SHUTDOWN

1. Remove finger from throttle and engage the chain brake.
2. Place chain saw on level ground with the blade clear of ground
3. Turn master control to OFF position.
4. Once engine stops, allow to cool slightly before re-fitting blade cover.

**Please refer to the User Guide and Operators Manual
for detailed Operating Instructions**

The safety information contained in this assessment is general information only and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice or tuition, which the hirer should seek before operating.