

WORK SAFELY - FOLLOW THESE RULES

CAUTION

The designed and tested safety of this equipment depends on it being operated within the limitations as explained in this manual. Read manual before operating.

TRAINING

- Safety instructions are important! **READ THIS MANUAL AND ALL SAFETY RULES.**
- Know your equipment's controls and how to stop tractor, engine and attachments quickly in an emergency.
- To avoid accident or injury, do not allow anyone to operate this equipment without proper instruction. Any person who operates this equipment **MUST** be instructed in and capable of the safe operation of the unit, its attachments and all controls.
- Do not allow children or unqualified individuals to operate equipment.

PREPARATION

- Always wear relatively tight and belted clothing to avoid entanglement in moving parts. Wear sturdy, rough soled work shoes. Never operate tractor or implements in bare feet, sandals or sneakers.
- This machine produces sound levels in excess of 85 dBA at the operator ear and can cause hearing loss through extended periods of exposure. Wear hearing protection when operating this machine.
- Ensure attachments are properly mounted, adjusted and in good operating condition.
- Make sure driveline spring-activated locking collar slides freely and is seated firmly in the tractor PTO groove.
- Ensure ROPS is in good condition and installed properly. Never modify ROPS with holes, notches or welding. If ROPS is damaged, it must be replaced.
- Check brake action before you operate. Adjust or service brakes as necessary.
- Ensure all safety switches function properly. See Operation section for details.

- Remove accumulated debris from attachment and tractor to avoid fire hazard.
- Ensure all safety shielding is in good condition and properly installed.
- Ensure either the discharge shield, restriction plate, or complete vacuum attachment is installed.
- Ensure all safety decals are installed and in good condition.
- Use correct counterweights when certain attachments are installed (see specific accessory installation instructions).
- Inspect area to be cut removing stones, branches and other debris that might be thrown causing injury or damage.
- Evaluate the terrain to determine what accessories and attachments are needed to properly and safely perform the job.
- Low-hanging branches and similar obstacles can injure the operator or interfere with mowing operation. Before mowing, identify potential obstacles such as low-hanging branches, and trim or remove those obstacles.
- Never permit any person, other than the operator, to ride or board the tractor or implements at any time.
- Operate only in daylight or good artificial light.

FUEL HANDLING SAFETY

- In certain conditions, gasoline, ethanol, diesel and other types of fuel are extremely flammable and highly explosive. A fire or explosion from fuel can burn you and others and can damage property.
- Fill the fuel tank outdoors, in an open area, when the engine is cold. Wipe up any fuel that spills.
- Do not remove the fuel cap if the engine or fuel tank is hot. Allow several minutes to cool.
- Remove the fuel cap slowly to release any pressure from the fuel tank.
- Do not fill the fuel tank completely full. Add fuel to the fuel tank until the level is .25" to .5" (6 mm to 13 mm) below the bottom of the filler neck. This empty space in the

tank allows fuel to expand.

- Never smoke when handling fuel, and stay away from an open flame or where fuel fumes may be ignited by a spark.
- Store fuel in an approved container and keep it out of the reach of children. Never buy more than a 30-day supply of fuel.
- Never store antifreeze or oil in the fuel container.
- Always place fuel containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
- Do not fill fuel containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed because interior carpets or plastic truck bed liners may insulate the container and slow the loss of any static charge.
- When practical, remove equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel the equipment with its wheels on the ground.
- If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a truck or trailer from a portable container, rather than from a fuel dispenser nozzle.
- If a fuel dispenser nozzle must be used, keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete.
- Never use cellular phones or other portable electronic devices when handling fuel.

FILLING THE FUEL TANK

- Always fill the fuel tank with the machine parked on a hard LEVEL surface with the engine stopped, the park brake set, and the key removed from the ignition.
- Do not fill the fuel tank completely full. Air space is required in the full tank to allow the fuel to expand and contract with temperature changes. A valve is located in the top center of the tank to allow air to enter and exit the tank.
- Never fill the fuel tank when the engine is hot. Allow several minutes to cool.
- Filling the fuel tank, with the machine parked on a slope, can cause you to over fill the tank.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY

- Read “Operation” section of this manual before attempting to operate this unit.
- Do not operate without ROPS deployed.
- Fenders serve as shields. Do not operate without them.
- Keep bystanders away from equipment while it is in operation.
- Keep children and pets a safe distance away. Never direct discharge toward anyone.
- Start engine from operator’s seat after disengaging tractor power takeoff and placing steering levers into the neutral swing-out position.
- Keep hands and feet away from underneath mower while engine is running. Stay clear of all moving parts on tractor and attachments.
- Wear suitable hearing protection when operating this machine.
- Never allow anyone behind tractor or in front of implements when operating.
- Do not operate in reverse unless absolutely necessary and then only after careful observation of the entire area behind you.
- If operator must dismount to make adjustments the engine must not be running.
- If machine is equipped with a fixed ROPS, always wear seatbelt.
- If machine is equipped with a foldable ROPS, always wear seatbelt when ROPS is deployed.
- When foldable ROPS must be down (i.e. loading or unloading on an enclosed trailer), DO NOT use seatbelt and drive with extra care.
- Do not move steering levers from forward to reverse or reverse to forward position rapidly. The sudden change could cause loss of control and/or damage to equipment.
- Do not operate on steep slopes.
- Do not stop, start or change directions suddenly on slopes.
- Use extreme care and maintain minimum ground speed when traveling or operating on a hillside, over rough ground, or when

- operating close to ditches and fences.
- Reduce speed on slopes and sharp turns to minimize tipping and avoid loss of control. Be careful when changing directions on slopes.
- Stay alert for holes, rocks, roots and other hidden hazards in the terrain. Keep away from drop-offs.
- Stop mower or other attachment and tractor immediately upon striking an obstruction. Turn engine off, inspect attachment and tractor. Repair any damage before resuming operation.
- Disengage power to attachment, stop engine, remove key and wait for all movement to stop before dismounting, making adjustments, cleaning, or unclogging the machine.
- Never transport attachments with PTO running.
- Watch for traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- This unit is not equipped for highway use, especially when safety lighting and marking is required. It is not a recreational vehicle.
- This unit is not equipped with a drawbar. Do not pull loads.
- Take all possible precautions when leaving tractor unattended: disengage PTO, lower attachment, place controls in neutral, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key from ignition.
- Move very slowly when attachment is removed. Never carry passengers.
- Do not run engine in an enclosed area without adequate ventilation. Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly poison.

MAINTENANCE SAFETY

- Always perform maintenance with the machine parked on a hard level surface; with the engine stopped and the PTO disengaged; with the park brake set; and with the key removed from the ignition.
- Always remove the grounded (-) clamp from the battery when performing maintenance on the engine, clutch, or any other electrical system.
- Never work under the machine without jack stands or other equivalent safety blocks. Do NOT rely solely on mechanical or hydraulic jacks or lifts for support. Always use adequate wheel chocks on tires remaining on the ground.
- Never work under the attachment without holding it in the upright position with chains or straps or blocking underneath the deck. Do NOT rely solely on the electric or hydraulic system.
- Hydraulic hoses can fail due to physical damage, kinks, age, and exposure. Check hoses regularly. Replace damaged hoses.
- Escaping fluid under pressure can penetrate the skin causing serious injury. Avoid the hazard by relieving pressure before disconnecting hydraulic or other lines. Tighten all connections before applying pressure. If an accident occurs, see a doctor immediately. Any fluid injected into the skin must be surgically removed within a few hours or gangrene may result.
- Search for leaks with a piece of cardboard. Protect hands and body from high pressure fluids.
- If it is necessary to run an engine in an enclosed area, remove the exhaust fumes from the area with an exhaust pipe extension. If an exhaust pipe extension is not available, work near open doors and get outside air into the area.
- Waste products such as used oil, fuel, coolant, and batteries can harm the environment and people. Dispose of waste products properly.
- Never attempt to disconnect or alter any part of the safety interlock systems.
- Keep engine free of grass, leaves, or excess grease to reduce fire hazard and minimize engine overheating.
- Do not change engine governor settings.
- Keep tractor and attachments in good operating condition and all safety devices in place.

- Periodically tighten all bolts, nuts and screws. Check that all cotter pins are properly installed to ensure equipment is in a safe condition.
- Check brake operation frequently. Adjust and service as required.

STORING SAFELY

- Never store equipment with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame, spark or pilot light as on a furnace, water heater, clothes dryer, or other gas appliance. Allow engine to cool before storing in an enclosure.
- If engine is to be unused for 30 days or more, add a fuel stabilizer to the fuel system. Fuel stabilizer (such as STA-BIL®) is an acceptable additive in minimizing the formation of fuel gum deposits during storage. Add stabilizer to fuel in fuel tank or storage container. Always follow mix ratio found on stabilizer container. Run engine at least 10 minutes after adding stabilizer to allow it to reach the carburetor or injectors.
- If draining fuel tank, drain fuel into an approved container outdoors and away from open flame.
- Always provide adequate ventilation when running engine indoors. Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly poison.
- Never store an attachment in the raised position without securing the attachment with chains or straps or blocking underneath the attachment. It is best to remove attachment from tractor. Remove all accumulated debris from attachments and tractor.
- Clean machine with air or cloths. DO NOT high pressure wash. Never clean hot components with cold water.
- Sand areas where paint is chipped and repaint to prevent rust. Lubricate all locations to prevent moisture damage during storage.