



Safe Work Practice No.3

September 2002

Power Roof Cutters

- Only qualified roofers trained in the operation of a power roof cutter shall operate this machinery.
- The equipment shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A qualified mechanic shall make repairs or replace damaged components prior to use.
- Hoist the roof cutter to roof level by attaching the lifting cables to the roof cutter's lifting lugs.
- Be certain all safety guards, shields and pins are secure and locked into place before starting.
- Inspect cutter blade condition and tightness before starting the engine. Do not operate a cutter with an excessively worn, damaged or loose blade.
- Never reach into the blade area when the engine is operating. Keep hands away from blade and drive belts.
- Use manufacturer's recommended cutting blades only.
- Do not modify the cutter or operate a modified machine.
- Wear personal protective equipment including safety footwear, dust mask, eye and ear protection while operating the roof cutter.
- Operate a roof cutter only on flat or near level built-up roofing systems.
- Electrical cords, propane hoses, ropes and equipment shall be removed from the work area. Deck mounted electrical and service lines shall be identified and marked.
- Remove debris from the work area before starting the roof cutter.
- Reduce dust levels by wetting down the surface of the roofing system with water.
- Do not allow other workers to work near or walk in front of the cutter while in operation.

- Wear eye and/or dust protection while working in the vicinity of an operating roof cutter.
- Guard all roof openings prior to operating the roof cutter.
- Operate roof cutters only in straight lines, parallel to the roof edge. The operator shall never be positioned between the operating cutter and an unguarded roof edge.
- Operate the roof cutter directly from behind with both hands controlling the machine.
- Never walk backwards while operating a roof cutter.
- Never tilt the roof cutter during operation.
- Avoid cutting deeper than the thickness of the roof insulation as the structural decking may be damaged by the cutting blade.
- Do not attempt to cut metal roof decks with the roof cutter blades.
- Do not operate a roof cutter when impaired by alcohol or other drugs.
- When re-fuelling the roof cutter, shut off engine and allow it to cool down prior to refueling. If fuel is spilled, clean up the excessive fuel before restarting the engine. Remove the fuel container from work area.
- Shut off the engine when the roof cutter is left unattended.