



**Standards**  
**Association of**  
**Australia**



# **Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>** **3576—1988**

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## **BRUSHCUTTERS— GUIDE TO SAFE WORKING PRACTICES**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/33, Chainsaw Safety. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 15 July 1988 and published on 12 September 1988.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**BRUSHCUTTERS—  
GUIDE TO SAFE WORKING  
PRACTICES**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Chainsaw Safety, under the supervision of the Safety Standards Board.

It provides guidelines and recommendations for the safe use of brushcutters, identifies hazards, describes methods for particular operations, and contains basic principles for instructing and training of brushcutter operators.

The Standard also includes fire prevention measures, and a maintenance program for brushcutters.

This Standard does not cover the safety requirements applicable to brushcutters. Specific requirements for brushcutters are given in AS 3575, *Brushcutters—Safety requirements*.

A safety program should be introduced where persons are exposed to hazards. The aim of a safety program should be to protect persons through the control of hazards. Such a program should include the following:

- (a) Critical examination of working conditions to identify hazards.
- (b) Recommended methods for controlling hazards, where hazards cannot be minimized or eliminated by other means.
- (c) Use of personal safety devices and protective clothing.
- (d) Assessment of hazards and risks of hazards and the determination of hazard areas.
- (e) Sources of information relating to specifications.

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**BRUSHCUTTERS—GUIDE TO SAFE WORKING PRACTICES**

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This Standard sets out recommendations and guidance on the safe use and care of brushcutters. It includes recommendations for the training and supervision of brushcutter operators and the use of adequate and protective clothing, and identifies some of the more common hazards and dangers experienced in the use of brushcutters.

**1.2 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Standard is to provide assistance and guidance to actions related to the safe use of brushcutters, which should be taken by employers, employees, professionals, and amateurs, and to define desirable practices applicable to conditions prevailing in areas where brushcutters are used.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The documents below are referred to in this Standard.

AS

- 1269 Hearing conservation
- 1270 Hearing protection devices
- 1319 Safety signs for the occupational environment
- 1337 Eye protectors for industrial applications
- 1801 Industrial safety helmets

2161 Industrial safety gloves and mittens (excluding electrical and medical gloves)

2210 Safety footwear

2906 Fuel containers—Portable—Plastics and metal

**1.4 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

**1.4.1 Employee**—person engaged in activities for any employer for remuneration.

**1.4.2 Employer**—person, agent, firm, corporation, government department, commission, board, or other authority employing an employee.

**1.4.3 Hazards**—situations of potential risk of injury to operators or assistants arising out of a brushcutting process operation.

**1.4.4 Operation**—using a brushcutter for the clearing of grass, weeds, brush, or small trees.

**1.4.5 Regulatory Authority**—Minister of the Crown, a government department, or other public authority having power to issue regulations, orders, or other instructions having the force of law in respect of any subject covered by this Standard.