



## Introduction

This leaflet covers the safe working practices to be followed when using small, independent or tractor-mounted, mobile peeling machines.

You can use this leaflet, along with the manufacturer's handbook, as part of the risk assessment process to help identify the controls to put in place when using mobile peeling machines.

You must also assess the effect of the site and weather as well as following this guidance.

All operators must have had appropriate training in how to operate the machine and how to carry out the tasks required (see AFAG leaflet 805 *Training and certification*). No person under school leaving age should operate this machine. Those who have reached school leaving age but are below the age of 18 may operate a mobile peeler if supervised by a competent person of 18 years or over.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- 1 Use the following PPE:
  - Asafety helmet (complying with EN 397) if identified as required in the risk assessment.
  - Hearing protection (complying with EN 352) where the noise level exceeds 85 dB(A) (see HSE pocket card INDG363 *Protect your hearing or lose it!*).
  - Eye protection (a mesh visor complying with EN 1731 or safety glasses to EN 166).
  - Protective boots with good grip and ankle support (complying with EN 345-1).
  - Gloves with reinforced palms and fingers.
  - Non-snap outer clothing. The use of high-visibility clothing may also be appropriate.
- 2 Each person should carry a personal first-aid kit including a large wound dressing (see HSE leaflet INDG214 *First aid at work: Your questions answered*).
- 3 Hand-cleaning material such as waterless skin cleanser or soap, water and paper towels should be readily available.
- 4 All pulleys, belts, drive shafts and fan blades must be guarded.
- 5 There must be a clearly marked engine-stopping device easily accessible from the working position.
- 6 Asuitable fire extinguisher should be readily accessible.

## Maintenance

- 7 Ensure maintenance is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's handbook.
- 8 Check the condition of the disc and knives after every two hours of working or if damaged.
- 9 Check the structure of the peeling machine for visible defects.
- 10 Check there is enough air pressure in the tyres of the support wheels.

## Fuelling

- 11 Stop the engine and, if necessary, allow to cool before refuelling.
- 12 Petrol vapour is invisible and can travel considerable distances from spillage or fuelling sites. Maintain a safe distance from all sources of ignition at all times.
- 13 Store fuel to avoid vapour ignition from any source such as fires, people smoking or the peeler. Select a site shaded from direct sunlight and away from watercourses and drains.
- 14 Containers must be clearly labelled and have securely fitting caps. Plastic containers must be designed and approved for use with petrol or diesel fuel.
- 15 Replace the fuel cap securely.
- 16 Keep fuel from contacting the skin. If fuel gets into the eyes wash out with sterile water immediately and seek medical advice as soon as possible.

## Attaching tractor-mounted peelers

- 17 Stop the engine.
- 18 Ensure the three-point linkage on the tractor is compatible with the peeler and the peeler is mounted correctly.
- 19 For machines driven by a power take-off (PTO) shaft, before starting ensure:
  - the PTO shaft is fitted with a suitable guard, complying with EN 1152, that encloses the shaft along its full length from tractor to machine;
  - the guard is correctly fitted and in effective working order (see AS24(rev) *Power take-offs and power take-off drive shafts*);
  - the PTO speed is suitable for the machine.

## Preparing to work

- 20 Position and stabilise the machine on a firm surface.
- 21 Check any electrical cables for cuts and abrasions.

- 22 Ensure there is adequate working space between the stacking areas and the machine and the area is free of obstructions.
- 23 When peeling material over 3 m use support rollers.
- 24 Check knives for tightness, condition and setting. Knives must be kept in a matched set to ensure disc balance.
- 25 Check the peeler disc and frame for cracks. Repairs must be made before use.
- 26 Check all guards are properly fitted and secure, and the engine-stopping device is functioning correctly and is clearly marked.

## Emergency procedures

- 27 Ensure a designated and responsible person knows the daily work programme and agree with them a suitable emergency contact procedure. Where reasonably practicable use a mobile phone or radio and a pre-arranged call-in system.
- 28 Ensure the operators can provide the emergency services with enough detail for them to be found in the event of an accident, eg the grid reference, the distance from the main road, the type of access (suitable for car/four-wheel drive/emergency service vehicles). In urban areas street names are essential. Know the location details before they are needed in an emergency. (Also see AFAG leaflet 802 *Emergency planning*.)

## Starting the machine

- 29 Modern machines normally incorporate electric or recoil starters. If using an older machine with a starting handle, the following method should be adopted:
  - Locate the starting handle with the pawl over the crankshaft.
  - Keep the thumb and fingers together on the handle in case of kickback (see Figure 1).

