

Ban on Use of One Handed Chainsaws

BACKGROUND



Fig 1: Stihl MS 210



Fig 2: Example of a Top Handle chainsaw

There have been a number of fatalities and serious injuries in recent years due to the use of Top Handle and light Rear Handle Chainsaws. These saws are capable of being operated one-handed, and are only designed for use up in a tree by a **trained tree care specialist**. When used one-handed, the chain-break will not be activated if kickback occurs, and there is an significantly increased risk of cuts to the neck, shoulder and upper arm.

These 3 articles serve as a chilling reminder of the dangers involved:

[Gregory Bulbuc](#) [Alexander Kirkley](#) [Daniel Merrett](#)

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED

ESB NTs are no longer permitted to use any Top Handle and light Rear Handle Chainsaws, they are to be withdrawn from service immediately. This restriction applies to all Top Handle Chainsaws, to any Rear Handle Chainsaw with a guidebar of 12" or less, and specifically to the Stihl MS 210 (See Fig 1).

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Network Technicians: | If you have one of these Chainsaws in your possession, return it to your Supervisor immediately |
| Supervisor/Managers: | Check all Chainsaws in your team & quarantine these saws immediately |
| Auditors/Inspectors: | If you come across any of these Chainsaws, inform your Line Manager & the local managers as soon as possible |

All quarantined saws are to be sent to Eddie Kiely, Fleet & Equipment, Rosbrien, Limerick for disposal.

A Company Standard on the use of Chainsaws is under development, and when published, this restriction will be subsumed into this new document.

If you have any queries, please contact Adrian Walsh, Risk & Compliance Manager CD (087 226 9082) or Eddie Kiely, Fleet & Equipment (087 674 3036).

Issuing Authority:	Customer Delivery
Content Owner:	Walsh. Adrian (ESB Networks)
Document Number:	DOC-270519-EZS

Document Status:	Effective
Status Date:	31/05/2019

To provide feedback click here:	Provide Feedback
---------------------------------	----------------------------------

To view existing feedback click here:	View Feedback
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------

The Requirements of this document shall be complied with by all end users. Feedback on its content is welcome and should be given to the Content Owner. If a Derogation from a Requirement(s) is needed, then this shall be referred to the Content Owner.