# Walk Behind Trenchers – Instructions for Use



#### **SAFETY FIRST**

If you are collecting the equipment for someone else please make sure this sheet is given to the equipment user to read. This sheet should be given to the site supervisor if the equipment is being hired for commercial use so that the information is available to all users. Before starting any job, be sure to spend a few minutes planning and understanding the hazards and risks of the activity and determining how you will control them to prevent injury or damage.



## **Required Safety Equipment**



### **Pre-Start Checks and Safety**

- Check fuel tank is full (straight petrol)
- Check engine and hydraulic oil levels
- Check all grease points are well lubricated
- Familiarise yourself with all controls etc
- Check digging chain tension and condition
- Check the worksite before commencing work for underground services
- Ensure the trencher is sized for the job
- Do not let inexperienced people operate machine
- Keep people away from work site
- Never leave machine running while unattended and not in use
- Never use in confined areas
- Use extreme caution as exhaust and engine get hot enough to cause serious burns
- The machine should be used with caution and respect, because misuse or carelessness may result in serious injury or damage to equipment and property
- Use extreme caution when loading and unloading machine on and off trailers and trucks

## **Starting Procedure**

- 1. Turn on fuel supply and engine switch
- Choke the engine (cold start)
- Pull starter cord out until a slight resistance is felt, let starter recoil and give sharp pulls till engine fires or starts
- 4. Release choke
- 5. If required re-pull starter cord out until a slight resistance is felt, let starter recoil and give sharp pulls till engine starts
- 6. Allow engine to warm up

# **When Operating**

- Check ground stability and gradient
- Always use within rated specifications
- Open throttle and release park brake
- Always trench in reverse
- Move trencher around site (to position for trench) with axle in the unlock position, use the Forward / Reverse control on the right hand side while holding the clutch lever on the left hand handle grip
- Once positioned return Forward / Reverse to the neutral position and lock axle
- Put digging chain control to on and continue holding until you have engaged clutch on left side handle grip
- Slowly lower digging boom to required depth then slowly move the ground speed control into the reverse direction
- The desired speed will depend on ground conditions and may require the speed to be increased / decreased as you trench
- If in any difficulty release the clutch lever to stop chain rotation and travel drive

#### **Stopping and After Use**

- Disengage PTO chain drive
- Park machine in a safe place and apply park hrake
- Lower trenching boom to ground level
- Return throttle lever to idle and allow engine to run down for approx two minutes
- Turn ignition switch off

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