

Using Battery Powered Blowers

Review date: 30/10/13

Document no.	Work description	
SMS-06-SW-0894	Using battery powered blowers	
Risk assessment ref:	Scope (e.g. Not applicable to large industrial laminator)	
Review date	References (relevant legislation, codes or practice, Australian Standards or manufacturer's manual) SMS-06-PR-0225 Plant SMS-06-GD-0403 Plant Risk Assessment SMS-06-GD-0001 Guide to Manual Handling OHS Regulation 2001 clause 9 Employer to identify hazards OHS Regulation 2001 Chapter 5 Plant Manual Handling Risk Assessment – Using Battery Powered Blowers 14 November 2007 GMC Instruction Manual 18 V Cordless sweeper / blower WorkCover Manual Handling Risk Guide – Safe Manual Handling Smart Move 2007	
PPE and precautions	Competencies or qualifications	Licences or permits required
Shoes Protective Glasses Hearing protection High Visibility vest (on platforms or near danger zone) Hat and sunscreen Gloves	N/A	N/A
Tools and equipment required	Charger and Blower unit	

Note

IF CONTROL MEASURES ARE NOT SUITABLE AND MAJOR CHANGES ARE NEEDED, CONDUCT AN OHS RISK ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOP NEW CONTROLS ACCORDING TO SMS-06-SR-1479 OHS Risk Management

Familiarisation

Before Using the cordless blower, familiarise yourself with all the operating features and safety requirements.

Know Your Product

- 1) On/Off trigger switch
- 2) Blower Tube
- 3) Battery
- 4) Battery Release Tabs
- 5) Charger

**Pre-start checks**

1. Visually inspect for damage, faulty parts or defects
2. Check work area for loose objects and obstructions; clear away if possible
3. Check attachments to the blower are correctly fitted and adjusted

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Turning the blower on & off

1. Ensure the battery pack (3) is inserted
2. To switch on squeeze the trigger switch (1)
3. To switch off, release the trigger switch.



Inspection & Maintenance

Maintain and service according to the manufacturer's specifications

- Keep inspection and test records in accordance with the SMS-05-RG-0220 Safety Records Register
- Manufacturers Instruction manual is to be available
- Prior to cleaning or any maintenance always ensure the battery pack has been removed from the tool.
- When you have finished using the blower, always check to make sure the product is clean & free of dirt & debris
- Store blower in a dry place

Battery

Warning



- Do not use if battery unit is cracked or damaged
- Do not charge battery unit for no longer than 24 hours
- Keep charger unit away from water
- Do not use solvents to clean the blower

Fitting & Removing the Battery Pack -

1. To remove the battery pack from the blower firmly press the battery release tabs (4) at either side of the battery pack, and slide the battery backward out of the tool.
2. To install the battery pack, align rails, on the tool with the tabs on the battery pack and slide the battery pack on to the blower. Ensure the battery pack is sitting straight on the foot and correctly entering the runners. The battery should slide fully on to the drill foot until the battery pack "clicks" into position.



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Battery Charging

Step 1

- Connect charger (5) to power source.
- The green light (a), should light up.
- This indicates the charger is ready to begin charging.



Step 2

- Position battery pack on charger; align rails (d), on battery charger with (e) on battery pack.
- Slide battery forward onto charger until it clicks into position.



Step 3

- The red light (b), should begin to glow continuously, indicating that the battery pack is receiving a "Fast Charge".



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Battery Charging

Step 4

- After approximately one hour, the "Fast Charge" indicator red light (b) should go out indicating that the battery pack is fully charged and that the charger is now in a "Maintenance Charge" mode, this is confirmed by the light (a) coming back on.
- Disconnect charger from power source when not in use.



Step 5

- To remove the battery pack from the charger depress the battery pack release tabs (4) and slide the battery off.



Attaching the blower tube

- Slide the blower tube (2) onto the blower housing, ensuring the hole in the tube matches up with the raised section in the housing.



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Manual Handling Risk Factors



Manual Handling Risk Category

- Repetitive actions and movements
- Duration & frequency
- Working posture & position

Manual Handling Risk Problem

- Increased Stress and strain to spine, back muscles and limbs
- Muscle fatigue increases risk of injury, psychological impact
- Repetitive or frequent bent or twisted posture increases load on the back

Operation of the blower with safe Manual Handling Techniques

- Hold the blower firmly and rotate from side to side, holding the tube several inches above the ground.
- Slowly move forward directing the debris to the desired location
- Avoid blowing dust & debris towards people in area
- Take care do not over extend, move closer to the area being swept
- Do not use the blower for excessive periods, vary the sweeping by performing a variety of work tasks during the day or take regular breaks
- When sweeping stairs start from the bottom
- Assess floor surfaces for wet or uneven surfaces to avoid slips or trips when operating the blower.
- Perform all movements smoothly, in a controlled, balanced, comfortable position with **minimal** repetitive bending, twisting and overreaching movements
- Carry out work in a comfortable position with regular changes in position and posture



Additional controls

Staff with special needs (Permanent or Temporary)

If staff member is on permanent or temporary modified duties supervisors must refer to the employees return to work plans to assess if the operation of a blower is a suitable duty.