



Safety Advisory Notice

Kubota Tractors & Attachments



OCTOBER 2013

Introduction:

A number of State authorities use Kubota tractors for lawn mowing and other maintenance duties. There have been some safety issues in relation to these machines and, in particular, with the use of lawn mowing attachments. Some of the lawn mowing attachments have not been fitted with the required safety features. The absence of these features has resulted in some serious accidents where the operators have come in contact with the blades. State authorities must assess lawn mowing machinery in order to identify whether they meet the required safety standards.

Safety Standard (BS EN 836: 1997 + A4:2011):

This European standard specifies the safety requirements for ride on lawn mowers and lawn/garden tractors with mowing attachments. It is important to check with the supplier to ensure that the equipment currently in use meets the safety standard. The controls outlined below are some of the key safety measures outlined in the safety standard (BS EN 836: 1997 + A4:2011). The controls ensure that tasks can be completed safely and will reduce the risk of accidents occurring.

Operator training and information:

- Operators must be provided with the necessary training by a competent person prior to using lawn mowing machinery. Training is most often provided by suppliers when the machinery is purchased.
- The training should cover safe operation during normal conditions, routine and flexible maintenance, and inspection.
- Operators must be issued with the operator's manual.

Operator presence control:

- Ride on machines must be fitted with a device which will automatically stop the rotation of the blades when the operator leaves the driving seat.
- It must only be possible to reactivate the blades when the operator returns to the driving seat and reactivates the blades manually.
- These mechanisms ensure that the blades will not activate when the operator is clearing blockages etc.

Safety guards:

- Safety guards should be in place to prevent accidental contact with hazardous servicing points.
- Warning signs must be present on safety guards which may need to be removed during maintenance.
- Guards must be permanently attached and only removable with the use of a tool except for interlocking guards which automatically stop the blades when the guard is not in place.

Leaving the operator's position:

Before leaving the operator's position, the operator should:

- Disengage the mowing attachments and lower them.
- Apply the parking brake.
- Stop the engine and remove the key.

Dealing with blockages:

Before attempting to unblock a blockage or performing any maintenance work on the equipment, the operator should:

- Disengage the drive to the mowing attachments.
- Ensure all moving parts have come to a complete stop.
- Stop the engine.
- Remove the ignition key.
- Disconnect the spark plug wires if directed to do so by the operator's manual.

Emptying the grass catcher:

Before removing the grass catcher, the operator should:

- Stop the engine.
- Disengage the drive to the mowing attachments.

Refuelling:

- Do not smoke while refuelling.
- Refuel outdoors.
- Never refuel while the engine is running or while the engine is hot.
- If petrol is spilled, do not attempt to start the engine. Move the machine away from the area and do not start the engine until petrol vapours have dissipated.
- Replace all fuel tank caps securely.

Personal protective equipment

The operator should wear:

- Clothing that will not get entangled in moving parts.
- Long trousers.
- Substantial footwear, ideally steel toe capped boots.
- Ear defenders.
- Safety glasses/goggles when dealing with blockages or when operating tractors that do not have a cab.