



Guidelines for the Safe Use of Pedestrian Operated Industrial Rotary Floor Cleaning Machines

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Issue table

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1 Risk Assessment

It is necessary that the employer carries out a risk assessment for the operator, taking account of but not limited to:

- the working environment
- the work pattern
- the age, physique and medical condition of the operator

The risk assessment should be regularly reviewed and updated on an 'as needed' basis.

2 Training

It is essential that operators are fully trained and conversant with the appliance prior to using the equipment within the normal working environment. It is important that the appliance be suitable for the application and that the manufacturer's instructions with regard to user maintenance, the correct selection of cleaning materials, accessories, brushes, pads etc., are followed at all times. The operator should have the ability to recognise symptoms of unusual operation of the appliance.

3 Reporting

Staff should report any problems experienced to their supervisor in order that they can be addressed at an early stage.

4 Posture/Muscle Use

The employer should design a work programme such that the operator will not exert undue effort in a prolonged or repetitive manner.

Recommendations:

- Reduce the effort required to operate the appliance by keeping the appliance and its accessories, i.e. pads, brushes, buffing discs etc., correctly maintained and fitted.
- Distribute the effort required to operate the appliance effectively by using both hands.
- Avoid excessive twisting of the body when operating the appliance.
- When operating the appliance, stand with the feet slightly apart in order to maintain good balance. Let the appliance do the work and hold the handle as lightly as possible.
- Wherever possible, implement job rotation and adequate rest periods in order to avoid continuous use.
- At the end of the cleaning operation, pads, brushes, buffing discs etc., should be removed or retracted as appropriate, to prevent deformation.
- Ensure that operators wear suitable clothing to keep dry and maintain hand and body temperatures at an acceptable level.
- Ensure that operators wear suitable footwear in order to protect the feet and avoid slipping.

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Machines**

- Do not smoke when using the appliance.
- Use the appliance manufacturer's approved spares and accessories.
- For mains operated appliances, check the condition of the mains cable prior to operation.

Notes:

1. Equipment must be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. General advice may be obtained by referring to Manual Handling – HSE Document ISBN 0-11-886335-5

IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE SUPPLIER OF YOUR MACHINE.

While reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of these guidelines, ICMMA accepts no liability for the user's interpretation of the information provided.

Following these guidelines should not, of itself, be taken to guarantee compliance with relevant standards or legislation.

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