

# NEWSFLASH



RGWILBREY (CONSULTANTS) LIMITED

## STRIMMERS

The safety alert arises from a fatal incident. Initial investigations indicate that a link from a **Non-standard** chain flail attached to a **Strimmer**, struck a nearby worker in the head



### Issues

The high output shaft speed of a **Strimmer** creates the potential for significant energy to be transferred to the cutter head. When using **non standard parts** the risk from breakage and ejection of chain components at high speed is significant.

The use of non-standard cutting attachments not approved by the manufacturer may, because of their geometry and mass, induce excessive stresses which could result in premature failure and possible break-up of the **Strimmer**, thereby increasing the risk of injury from any ejected component.

Manufacturers' original cutting equipment such as nylon cords, metal cutting blades and saw blades are designed to be used in combination with specifically designed safeguarding systems. The chain flail attachments are not supplied with any compatible safeguard/deflector.



The harmonised standard for specifying the safety requirements for such machinery, EN ISO 11806, excludes from its scope brush cutters equipped with metallic blades having more than one part (such as chain links.)



### Action required:

#### Users

Any **Strimmer** fitted with chain flail or similar non-standard attachments should be taken out of service immediately and the attachments removed and replaced with the manufacturer's approved accessory.

Manufacturers' advice should be followed as to the appropriate combinations of cutting tools and guards.

Such advice is typically available within the instruction books accompanying the machine.

#### Suppliers

UK suppliers should immediately **cease** the supply of such chain flail attachments, whether or not intended for "professional use."