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This Information Bulletin was originally uploaded to the Electrical Regulatory Authority Councils website in March 2016. This notice applies from March 2016.

General

This information bulletin applies to determining the appropriate Australian/New Zealand Standard for pole pruners.

Requirement

A chain saw would be required to comply with AS/NZS 60745.2.13.

AS/NZS 60745.2.13 does not cover pole pruners. This is stated in its scope as follow: "This standard does not apply to chain saws for tree service as defined in ISO 11681-2, pole cutters and pruners". Therefore, a pole pruner does not have to comply with AS/NZS 60745.2.13 and there is no other specific AS/NZS 60745 standard for a pole pruner.

AS/NZS 3160 is a general standard that can be applied to electrical tools that do not have a specific AS/NZS 60745 standard.

Therefore, for a pole pruner, as defined above, it would be acceptable to comply with AS/NZS 3160 (with the addition of appropriately modified markings and instruction warnings of AS/NZS 60745.2.13 applied).

However, a pole pruner can be tested to AS/NZS 60745.2.13 so long as it complies with all requirements as a chain saw (i.e. no exemptions or sections claimed not applicable or not relevant).

Background

A pole pruner is similar to a chain saw however it has an extended arm that removes the hazards related to contact with the cutting chain further away from the user than that which occurs with a chain saw. An example of a pole pruner is given in picture 1.



Picture 1 – example of pole pruner

The delineation between what is considered a chain saw and what is considered a pole pruner is therefore the length of the extended pole.

Any device that has an extended arm/pole that results in the cutting chain being greater than 2 metres from the handle gripped by the user (with measurement take with shortest adjustment or shortest attachment between cutting chain and handle offered by supplier) is considered a pole pruner and not a chain saw.