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## Machinery for forestry — Portable chain-saw safety requirements and testing —

### Part 2: Chain-saws for tree service

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*Matériel forestier — Exigences de sécurité et essais des scies à chaîne  
portatives —  
Partie 2: Scies à chaîne pour l'élagage des arbres*

ISO/FDIS 11681-2.2

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 23, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Manually portable forest machinery*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 144, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 11681-2:2011), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the normative references in [Clause 2](#) have been updated;
- requirements for kickback in [4.5.3.1](#) have been clarified;
- requirements and verification for throttle control system in [4.12](#) have been updated;
- a new subclause, [4.17.2.3](#) “Fuel feed line strength and accessibility”, has been added;
- [5.1.2](#) has been updated;
- in [5.1.3](#), information on safe starting procedure has been added.

A list of all parts in the ISO 11681 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document is a type-C standard as stated in ISO 12100:2010.

This document is of relevance, in particular, for the following stakeholder groups representing the market players with regard to machinery safety: players with regard to machinery safety:

- machine manufacturers (small, medium and large enterprises);
- health and safety bodies (regulators, accident prevention organizations, market surveillance, etc.).

Others can be affected by the level of machinery safety achieved with the means of the document by the above-mentioned stakeholder groups:

- machine users/employers (small, medium and large enterprises);
- machine users/employees (e.g. trade unions, organizations for people with special needs);
- service providers, e.g. for maintenance (small, medium and large enterprises);
- consumers (in case of machinery intended for use by consumers).

The above-mentioned stakeholder groups have been given the possibility to participate at the drafting process of this document.

The machinery concerned and the extent to which hazards, hazardous situations or hazardous events are covered are indicated in the scope of this document.

When requirements of this type-C standard are different from those which are stated in type-A or type-B standards, the requirements of this type-C standard take precedence over the requirements of the other standards for machines that have been designed and built according to the requirements of this type-C standard.

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# Machinery for forestry — Portable chain-saw safety requirements and testing —

## Part 2: Chain-saws for tree service

### 1 Scope

This document specifies safety requirements and measures for verification for the design, construction, transporting and commissioning for tree service of portable, combustion-engine, hand-held chain-saws having a maximum mass of 4,3 kg (without the guide bar and saw-chain and with tanks empty).

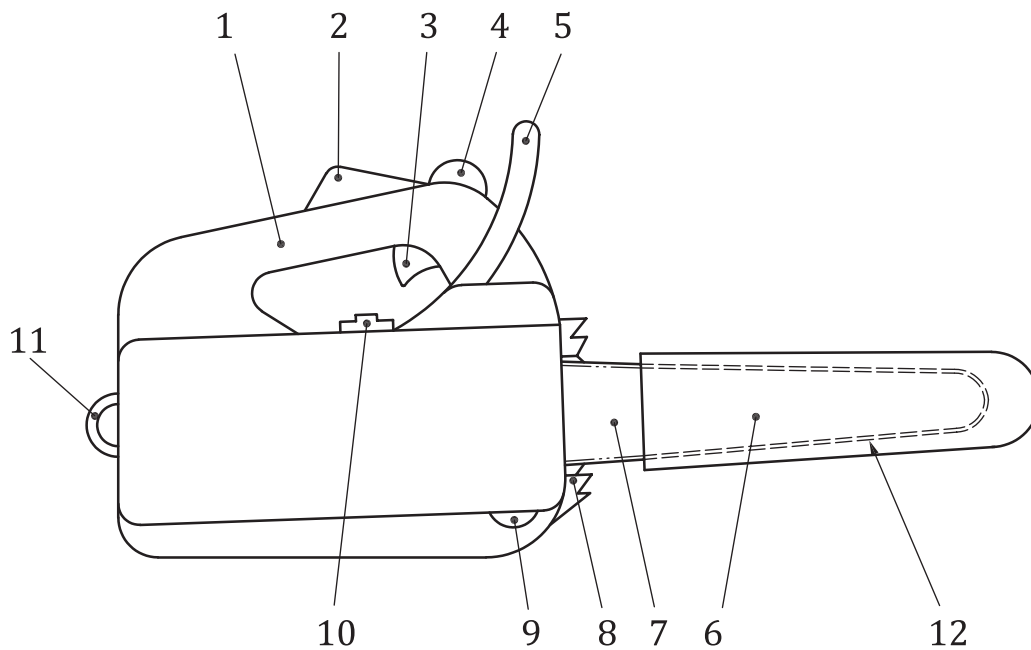
The chain-saws are intended to be used, with the right hand on the rear handle and left hand on the front handle, by a trained operator.

Dismantling and scrapping of the product is not covered by this document. Methods for the elimination or reduction of hazards arising from the use of these machines and the type of information on safe working practices to be provided by the manufacturer are specified.

This document deals with all significant hazards, hazardous situations and hazardous events relevant to these machines when they are used as intended and under conditions of misuse which are reasonably foreseeable by the manufacturer (see [Annex B](#)).

This document is applicable to chain-saws manufactured after its date of publication.

NOTE [Figure 1](#) shows an example of a chain-saw within the scope of this document.



#### Key

- |   |                           |    |                  |
|---|---------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | rear handle               | 7  | guide bar        |
| 2 | throttle trigger lock-out | 8  | spiked bumper    |
| 3 | throttle trigger          | 9  | chain catcher    |
| 4 | front handle              | 10 | stopping device  |
| 5 | front handguard           | 11 | attachment point |
| 6 | guide bar cover           | 12 | saw-chain        |

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**Figure 1 Example of chain-saw**

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 6531:2017, *Machinery for forestry — Portable chain-saws — Vocabulary*

ISO 6533:2020, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saw front hand-guard — Dimensions and clearances*

ISO 6534:2007, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saw hand-guards — Mechanical strength*

ISO 6535:2015, *Portable chain-saws — Chain brake performance*

ISO 7010:2019, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Registered safety signs*

ISO 7293:1997, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain saws — Engine performance and fuel consumption*

ISO 7914:2002, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saws — Minimum handle clearance and sizes*

ISO 7915:2021, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saws — Determination of handle strength*

ISO 8334:2007, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saws — Determination of balance and maximum holding moment*

ISO 9518:2018, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saws — Kickback test*



ISO 10726:2020, *Portable chain-saws — Chain catcher — Dimensions and mechanical strength*

ISO 12100:2010, *Safety of machinery — General principles for design — Risk assessment and risk reduction*

ISO 13772:2018, *Forestry machinery — Portable chain-saws — Non-manually actuated chain brake performance*

ISO 13849-1:2015, *Safety of machinery — Safety-related parts of control systems — Part 1: General principles for design*

ISO 13849-2:2012, *Safety of machinery — Safety-related parts of control systems — Part 2: Validation*

ISO 13857:2019, *Safety of machinery — Safety distances to prevent hazard zones being reached by upper and lower limbs*

ISO 14982:1998, *Agricultural and forestry machinery — Electromagnetic compatibility — Test methods and acceptance criteria*

ISO 22867:2021, *Forestry and gardening machinery — Vibration test code for portable hand-held machines with internal combustion engine — Vibration at the handles*

ISO 22868:2021, *Forestry and gardening machinery — Noise test code for portable hand-held machines with internal combustion engine — Engineering method (Grade 2 accuracy)*

IEC 61032:1997, *Protection of persons and equipment by enclosure — Probes for verification*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 6531:2017, ISO 12100:2010 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1

##### trained operator

person who has competence and knowledge in:

- the use of, and particular hazards associated with using, a chain-saw (for tree service work) manufactured in accordance with the provisions of this document, and
- the precautions to be taken to limit these hazards, including the wearing of the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

## 4 Safety requirements and/or protective measures

### 4.1 General

Machines shall comply with the safety requirements and/or protective measures of this clause. In addition, the machine shall be designed according to the principles of ISO 12100:2010 for relevant but not significant hazards which are not dealt with by this document.

The safe operation of a chain-saw also depends on the safe environment associated with the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, slip-resistant footwear, and leg, eye, foot, hearing and head protective equipment, as well as safe working procedures (see 5.1).

Except where otherwise specified in this document, the safety distances specified in ISO 13857:2019, 4.2.4.1 and 4.2.4.3, shall be met.

## 4.2 Handles

### 4.2.1 Requirements

Chain-saws shall have a handle for each hand. These handles shall be designed such that

- they can be fully gripped by an operator wearing protective gloves,
- they provide the necessary sureness of grip by their shaping and surface,
- they conform to the dimensions and clearances given for tree-service chain-saws in ISO 7914:2002 (see also [4.12.1](#)), and
- their strength complies with ISO 7915:2021.

Chain-saws having a system for isolating machine vibration from the handles shall be designed so that the operator is able to stop the engine in a controlled manner with the engine stopping device (see [4.11](#)), even in the case of failure of the vibration isolation system.

### 4.2.2 Verification

Dimensions shall be verified by measurement. Strength requirements shall be verified by testing in accordance with ISO 7915:2021. The possibility of stopping the chain-saw engine when a failure has occurred in the vibration isolation system shall be verified by inspection of the design and by functional testing.

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## 4.3 Hand protection

### 4.3.1 Protection at front handle

[ISO/FDIS 11681-2.2](#)

#### 4.3.1.1 Requirements

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A hand-guard shall be fitted in the vicinity of the front handle to protect the operator's fingers and hand from injury through contact with the saw-chain.

The dimensions of this front hand-guard shall comply with ISO 6533:2020. Its strength shall comply with ISO 6534:2007.

#### 4.3.1.2 Verification

Dimensions shall be verified by measurement. Strength requirements shall be verified by testing in accordance with ISO 6534:2007.

### 4.3.2 Protection at rear handle

#### 4.3.2.1 Requirements

A hand-guard shall be provided along the length of the right side of the bottom of the rear handle to protect the operator's hand from contact with broken saw-chain.

This hand-guard shall extend from the right edge of the handle for at least 30 mm on the guide bar side (see [Figure 2](#)) and at least 100 mm lengthwise from the inner rear part of the handle (see [Figure 2](#)).

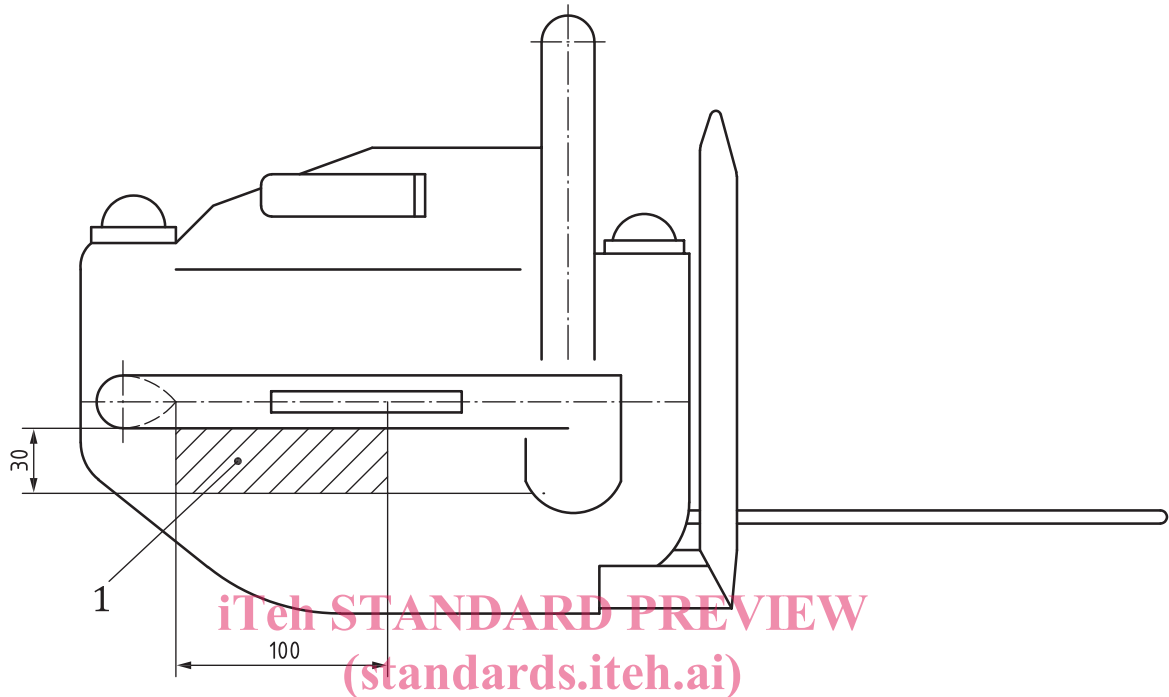
This requirement may also be fulfilled by parts of the machine.

The strength of the rear hand-guard shall comply with ISO 6534:2007.

#### 4.3.2.2 Verification

Dimensions shall be verified by measurement. Strength requirements shall be verified by testing in accordance with ISO 6534:2007.

Dimensions in millimetres



#### Key

- 1 minimum area covered or guarded to protect hand from broken saw-chain

**Figure 2 — Minimum dimensions of protection at rear handle**

### 4.4 Balance and holding moment

#### 4.4.1 Requirements

Chain-saws shall be longitudinally balanced to within  $\pm 25^\circ$  between the centreline of the guide bar and the horizontal plane, and laterally balanced to within  $\pm 10^\circ$  between the guide bar plane and the vertical plane.

The maximum holding moment shall not exceed 6 N·m.

The limits shall be met by the shortest and longest applicable guide bars.

#### 4.4.2 Verification

The angles for longitudinal and lateral balance and the holding moment shall be verified by functional testing in accordance with ISO 8334:2007.

## 4.5 Protection against injury by kickback

### 4.5.1 Chain brake

#### 4.5.1.1 Requirements

The chain-saw shall be fitted with a chain brake that can be activated manually by means of the front hand-guard. The chain brake release force shall be between 20 N and 50 N and the direction of movement shall be away from the operator.

The average stopping time shall not exceed 0,12 s and the maximum stopping time shall not exceed 0,15 s.

#### 4.5.1.2 Verification

The chain brake release force and stopping time shall be verified in accordance with ISO 6535:2015.

### 4.5.2 Non-manual chain brake

#### 4.5.2.1 Requirements

There shall also be a non-manual chain brake system that operates the chain brake when kickback occurs. This system shall meet the requirements for tree-service chain-saws given in ISO 13772:2018.

#### 4.5.2.2 Verification

The non-manually activated chain brake system shall be verified by functional testing in accordance with ISO 13772:2018.

### 4.5.3 Kickback and chain stop angles

#### 4.5.3.1 Requirements

At least one of the calculated kickback parameters shall be less than 25° ( $CKA_{wob}$  or  $CKA_{wb}$  or  $CKA_{cs} < 25^\circ$ ). This requirement shall be fulfilled for all guide bar and saw-chain combinations specified in the instructions. For the definitions of the kickback parameters, see ISO 9518:2018.

#### 4.5.3.2 Verification

$CKA_{wob}$ ,  $CKA_{wb}$ , and  $CKA_{cs}$  shall be verified by functional testing in accordance with ISO 9518:2018.

## 4.6 Chain catcher

### 4.6.1 Requirements

The chain-saw shall be fitted with a chain catcher located, and with dimensions and strength, in accordance with ISO 10726:2020. The chain catcher shall be replaceable.

### 4.6.2 Verification

Dimensions shall be verified by measurement. Strength requirements shall be verified by testing in accordance with ISO 10726:2020. Means for replacing the chain catcher shall be verified by inspection.

## 4.7 Spiked bumper

### 4.7.1 Requirements

The chain-saw shall have provision for mounting a spiked bumper (see [Figure 1](#)).

### 4.7.2 Verification

The provision for mounting a spiked bumper shall be verified by inspection.

## 4.8 Chip discharge

### 4.8.1 Requirements

The chain-saw shall be so designed that wood particles are directed below the underside of the chain-saw when it is in an upright (cross-cutting) position.

### 4.8.2 Verification

The direction of the discharge of wood particles shall be verified by inspection during cross-cutting operations.

## 4.9 Guide-bar cover

### 4.9.1 Requirements

The chain-saw shall be provided with a guide bar cover (see [Figure 1](#)), so designed that it remains attached to the guide bar during transport and storage.

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### 4.9.2 Verification

The attachment of the guide bar cover to the guide bar shall be verified by inspection when holding the chain-saw in any direction.

## 4.10 Engine starting device

### 4.10.1 Requirements

The engine starting device shall be a self-contained, battery-powered electric starter and/or a manual starter where the actuator is permanently attached to the machine.

Chain-saws with a manual starter shall have a recoil device for the rope.

Two or more separate and dissimilar actions shall be required to activate the electrical starting device.

### 4.10.2 Verification

The means of starting the chain-saw shall be verified by inspection and functional testing.

## 4.11 Engine stopping device

### 4.11.1 Requirements

The chain-saw shall be fitted with an engine stopping device by means of which the engine can be brought to a final stop and which does not depend on sustained manual effort for its operation. The control for this device shall be so positioned that it can be operated using either hand when the chain-