Chainsaws and Foot Protection!

Thankfully, few chainsaw operators ever sustain a cut to the foot!

However, when they do, it is usually in the 'red-zone' of the 'inside' left foot and the injury is very severe.

The industry has seen a number of foot cuts this year, hence this alert!

What you need to know?

- Rubber chainsaw boots (like those pictured) are usually class 3.
- Others such as the Aquafell, a leather boot, offer class 1 meeting ISO 17249:2004[1].
- Most other leather boots, apart from the steel toe cap area, are not rated for chainsaw protection.
- Large chainsaws (+85 cc or 5 kW), with a 50 cm bar, operating on full power, easily exceed chain speeds of 28 m/s.
- Recent destructive testing has shown 'no boots' have the ability to withstand 28 m/s when the cut is applied in a 'true-to-life' environment – particularly 'tip-cuts' at an angle to the boot.
- A NZ boot manufacturer is currently working with industry to solve this problem – they are confident of 'a solution'.
- An update will be provided soon – in the interim… please be careful.

[1] ISO 17249:2004 (the same standard as the new chaps) specifies chain speeds of 20 meters/second (m/s), where the saw is dropped 'flat' to the boot and the throttle is automatically released on contact. The chain must spin on the boot for 1 second. NB: Class 3 offers greater protection than class 1.

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