Powered Lawn Mowers – Safety Checklist

General Requirements	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
1. Are all power-driven chains, belts, and gears positioned or otherwise guarded to prevent contact during starting, mounting, and operation?	☐	☐	☐	
2. Is a shutoff device provided to stop operation of a motor or engine? (Note: This device must require manual reactivation to restart the motor or engine.)	☐	☐	☐	
3. Are all positions of the operating controls clearly identified?	☐	☐	☐	
4. Are the words “Caution: Be sure the operation control(s) is in neutral before starting the engine” or similar wording clearly visible at an engine-starting control point on self-propelled mowers?	☐	☐	☐	
5. For walk-behind and riding rotary mowers, is the mower blade enclosed (except on the bottom) and the enclosure extended to or below the lowest cutting point of the blade in the lowest blade position?	☐	☐	☐	
6. If guards must be removed to install a catcher assembly, is a warning affixed to the mower near the opening stating that the mower must not be used without either the catcher assembly or the guard in place?	☐	☐	☐	
7. Are openings in the blade enclosure that are intended for discharge of grass limited to a maximum vertical angle of the 30-degree opening measured from the lowest blade position?	☐	☐	☐	
8. Is the word “Caution” or stronger wording placed on the mower at or near the discharge opening?	☐	☐	☐	
9. After declutching or shutting off the power, do the blades stop rotating from the manufacturer’s maximum speed within 15 seconds?	☐	☐	☐	

Walk-Behind Rotary Mowers	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
10. Is the horizontal angle of the opening(s) in the blade enclosure intended for the discharge of grass directed so it does not contact the operator?	☐	☐	☐	
11. Is the highest point on the blade enclosure front (except discharge openings) 1 ¼ inches or less above the lowest cutting point of the blade in the lowest blade position?	☐	☐	☐	
12. Is the mower handle fastened to the mower to prevent loss of control by uncoupling?	☐	☐	☐	
13. Is a positive up stop or latch provided for the mower handle in the normal operating position? (Note: The up stop shall not be disengaged during normal operation of the mower.)	☐	☐	☐	
14. Do wheel-drive disengaging controls (except deadman controls) move opposite to the direction of the vehicle motion to disengage the drive? (Note: Deadman controls shall automatically interrupt the power to a drive when the operator's activating force is removed and may operate in any direction to disengage the drive.)	☐	☐	☐	
Riding Rotary Mowers				
15. Are openings placed so that grass or debris will not discharge directly toward any part of the operator's seat in the normal operating position?	☐	☐	☐	
16. Is one of the following present at all openings in the blade enclosures intended for grass discharge? (a) A minimum unobstructed horizontal distance of 6 inches from the end of the discharge chute to the blade tip circle; (b) Are vehicle stopping means provided?	☐	☐	☐	
17. Are mowers provided with stops to prevent jackknifing or locking of the steering mechanisms?	☐	☐	☐	

18. Do hand-operated wheel-drive disengaging controls move opposite to the direction of the vehicle motion to disengage the drive?	☐	☐	☐	
19. Do foot-operated, wheel-drive disengaging controls disengage the drive when depressed?	☐	☐	☐	
20. Do deadman controls (both hand and foot-operated) automatically interrupt the power to the drive when the mower's actuating force is removed and operate in any direction to disengage the drive?	☐	☐	☐	