

***Excel Side Catcher  
Operator's Manual***

**EXCEL**  
INDUSTRIES

200 South Ridge Road • Hesston, Kansas • 67062



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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## To The New Owner

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The purpose of this manual is to assist owners and operators in maintaining and operating the Excel Side Catcher. Please read it carefully; information and instructions furnished can help you achieve years of dependable performance.

## Using This Manual

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General operation, adjustment and maintenance guidance is outlined for both the experienced and novice Excel user. Operating conditions vary considerably and cannot all be addressed individually. Through experience, however, operators should find no difficulty in developing good operating skills suitable to most conditions.

Directions used in this manual, for example RIGHT or LEFT, refer to directions when seated on mower facing forward, unless otherwise stated.

Photographs and illustrations used were current at the time of printing, but subsequent production changes may cause your machine to vary slightly in detail. Excel Industries, Inc. reserves the right to redesign and change the machine as deemed necessary, without notification. If a change has been made to your machine which is not reflected in this owner's manual, or the parts manual, see your Excel dealer for current information and parts.

## Warranty Registration

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Your Dealer must register this attachment on-line within **ten (10) days** following date of purchase to validate your warranty protection. As the new equipment owner, you should confirm that your Dealer has registered your attachment with Excel Industries, Inc., manufacturer of Hustler® Turf Equipment, Inc. and Big Dog® mowers ("Manufacturer").

**IMPORTANT:** The mower and any attachment that displays a model and serial identification number plate **must** be registered with Excel Industries, Inc., manufacturer of Hustler® Turf Equipment, Inc. and Big Dog® mowers ("Manufacturer"). Failure to register the attachment can void the warranty.

Any unauthorized modification, alteration, or use of non-approved attachments voids the warranty and releases Manufacturer and Hustler® Turf Equipment, Inc. or Big Dog® Mower Company from any liability arising from subsequent use of this equipment. Do not use or operate any attachment not approved by Hustler® Turf Equipment, Inc. or Big Dog® Mower Company.

## Parts and Service

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All warranty repair and service must be handled through an authorized Excel dealer. Arrangements should be made through your local service center.

Available service parts for this catcher are listed below:

606221	Side catcher lid
606181	Decal, catcher warning



# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



This safety alert symbol is used to call attention to a message intended to provide a reasonable degree of **PERSONAL SAFETY** for operators and other persons during the normal operation and servicing of this equipment.

<b>▲</b> <b>DANGER</b> <b>▲</b>	<p>– denotes immediate hazards which <b>WILL</b> result in severe personal injury or death.</p>
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<b>▲</b> <b>WARNING</b> <b>▲</b>	<p>– denotes a hazard or unsafe practice which <b>COULD</b> result in severe personal injury or death.</p>
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This manual uses two other words to highlight information:

- A. **IMPORTANT** – calls attention to special mechanical information.
- B. **NOTE** – emphasizes general information worthy of special attention.

The **owner's responsibilities** include, but are not limited to,

- making certain that the operators and mechanics read and understand this manual and all decals before operating this machine.
- making certain that before the operators and mechanics are allowed to operate or maintain this machine, they **must** be familiar with its safe operation, operator controls, and decals.
- ensuring that the operators and mechanics know they are responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of other persons within the vicinity. **Remember**, the operator is responsible for accidents or hazards occurring to other people or their property.

Improper use, adjustment, or maintenance by the operator, mechanic or owner can result in injury or death. Reduce the potential for injuries by following these safety instructions. Pay close attention to the safety alert symbol “▲” and the instructions that follow it. **Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury or death.**

**Incorrect usage of this equipment may result in severe injury or death. Personnel operating and maintaining it should be trained in its proper use. They should read this manual completely and thoroughly before attempting to set-up, operate, adjust, or service this equipment.**

- ▲ Never let children or untrained people operate or service the equipment. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.
- ▲ Evaluate the terrain to determine what accessories and attachments are needed to properly and safely perform the job. Only use accessories and attachments approved by the manufacturer.
- ▲ Always stop on level ground, disengage deck clutch, place steering control levers in the park brake position, stop mower's engine and remove ignition key before leaving operator's seat for any reason including emptying the side catcher or unclogging the chute.
- ▲ Always be aware of any obstructions, especially small children, when backing or unloading the catcher.
- ▲ Always keep safety shields and covers in place, except for servicing.
- ▲ Never work on mower deck when the mower's engine is running.
- ▲ Never attempt high speed maneuvering in crowded or congested areas.
- ▲ Always operate with complete catcher system, mulching system or side discharge chute in place and in the lowest position.
- ▲ Always keep clear of the mower blades and attachments during their operation.
- ▲ Turn off blades when not mowing.
- ▲ Stop the engine before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the discharge chute. Never clear the discharge chute with the engine running. Turn off the engine and be sure the blades have stopped before cleaning. Use a stick to clear a plugged discharge area. **Never use your hand!**
- ▲ **Clean flammable material from machine. Prevent fires by keeping engine compartment, exhaust area, battery, fuel line, fuel tank and operator's station clean of accumulated trash, grass clippings, and other debris. Always clean up spilled fuel and oil.**
- ▲ Grass collection system components are subject to wear, damage and deterioration, which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. Frequently check components and replace with manufacturer's recommended parts when necessary.
- ▲ Never direct discharged material toward anyone. Avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction. Material may ricochet back towards the operator.
- ▲ Always disengage the blades and wait for them to stop before crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.

## Safety and Instructions Decals

The decals are designed to give the operator and mechanic brief daily operational and service information. Use these decals as an extension of this manual. Do not remove or obliterate the decals. Replace unreadable or missing decals.



- Read Operator's Manual and Safety Warning Decals before attempting to operate this machine.

### Part Number 606761



#### WARNING: Thrown objects!

- Use only Excel approved blades listed in the catcher operator's manual.

### Part Number 606181



- Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury.
- Never use the mower without the catcher or original grass deflector fully installed.
- Never operate the catcher without the door shut and secured.
- Always use eye protection when operating lawn mower.
- Keep others away from the mowing area.
- Do not use if you can not safely lift heavy loads. Use proper lifting techniques.
- Make sure engine is off and blade has stopped rotating before removing or installing catcher.
- Do not mow on slopes. The fuller and heavier the catcher is the more likely the mower is to tip over or slip.
- Follow all safety instructions provided with the lawn mower.
- Do not use this catcher if it is cracked or damaged.
- Do not put your hands inside the catcher. Cuts or abrasions may result.

#### WARNING: Thrown objects!

- Never operate the mower deck with side deflector damaged, altered, removed or in raised position, except when the entire grass catcher attachment or mulching system is being used.



### Part Number 604221

#### DANGER: Rotating blades, pulleys & belts

- Keep shields and covers in place while machine is in operation.
- Keep hands, feet and clothing away from rotating pulleys and belts.



# OPERATION

## Approved Blades



Thrown objects! Use only Excel approved mower blades.



Never operate the mower deck with side deflector damaged, altered, removed or in raised position, except when the entire grass catcher attachment or mulching system is being used.

The blades shown below are approved for use on the following Hustler and Big Dog mowers when using this catcher.

Deck Width	Hustler Models	Big Dog Models	Approved Blades	
			Part Number	Description
48	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	601123	16.50" low sail
48	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	606252	16.50" high sail
48	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	796623	16.50" wavy mulch
48	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	796631	16.50" Gator
54	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	601124	18.50" low sail
54	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	606251	18.50" high sail
54	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	797704	18.50" wavy mulch
54	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	797712	18.50" Gator
60	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	793794	20.50" low sail
60	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	606253	20.50" high sail
60	Fastrak/Fastrak SDX	Stout/Stout MP	794214	20.50" wavy mulch
36	Super S	Trooper	787721	17.86" high sail
48	Super S	Trooper	795757	16.50" high sail
52	Super S	Trooper	787721	17.86" high sail
60	Super S	Trooper	794685	20.50" high sail
52	X-ONE	Diablo	787721	17.86" high sail
60	X-ONE	Diablo/Diablo MP	794685	20.50" high sail

The following list contains useful information when using the catcher:

### Deck Discharge Plate Modification

It may be necessary to modify the deck discharge plate on mowers built prior to serial number 15060000.

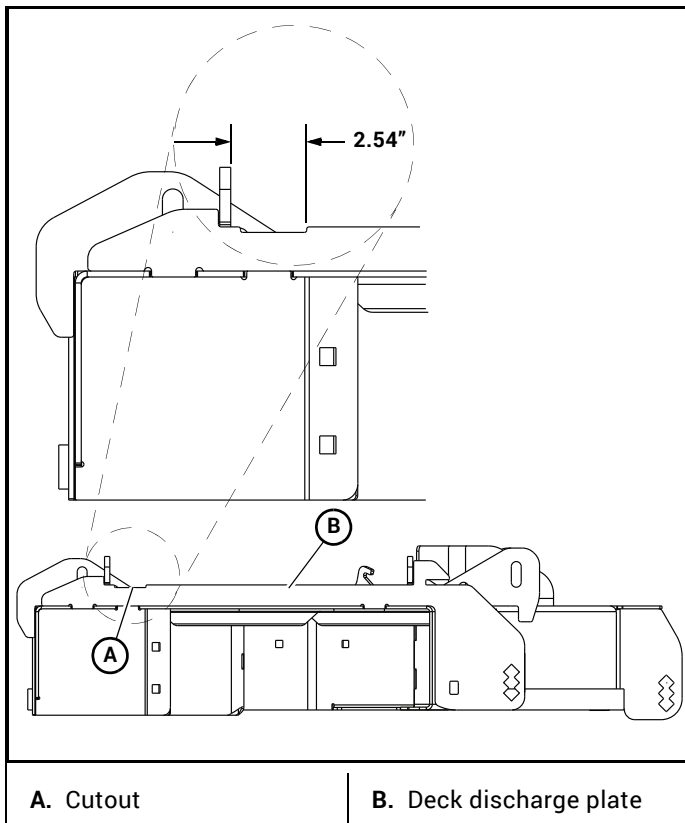
The cutout in the deck discharge plate is not long enough on these mowers to allow the rear catcher guide to be properly attached. It will be necessary to enlarge the cutout to the dimensions shown in Figure 3-1.

### Grass Pickup and Collection

Follow normal mower start-up and operating procedures as outlined in the mower operator's manual. Whenever the deck clutch switch is engaged the side catcher will collect clippings.

**IMPORTANT: Do not remove the side discharge chute from the mower deck.**

- When catching, use the left side of the mower for trimming to prevent damage to the discharge chute and side catcher.
- During peak growing times it may be necessary to cut the grass more often. If the grass is too long it may need to be cut twice. First, mow the grass with the cutting height set at a high setting to cut off the upper parts of the grass. Next, lower the cutting height to the preferred finished cut height and mow the area again. This will help reduce clogging.
- To help reduce clogging mow by slightly overlapping the previously cut area.
- Proceed to mow in the normal manner with the engine throttle set to the "FAST" position. Control the mower's ground speed by using the steering control



**Figure 3-1**

levers. In tall and/or wet grass the high engine speed and slower ground speed will help prevent clogging.

**WARNING** Remember, as the side catcher fills, more weight is added to the side of the mower. Any rapid movement of the control levers in either direction could result in a reaction of the mower that can cause serious injury.

- Visually check how full the side catcher is, as you mow. When it looks full, move the deck clutch switch to the disengaged position and drive the mower to the unloading area.
- It is best that the side catcher be unloaded before the discharge chute area becomes clogged. If clogging occurs, it will be necessary to clean the discharge chute area of all material before starting to mow again.
- When the grass is wet it may be necessary to mow it first in the side discharge mode. Then, after the clippings have dried, go back over the area with the side catcher installed and pick up the clippings.

- To minimize clogging, reduce your mowing speed as necessary or wait until there is less moisture in the grass.

**WARNING** Before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the deck discharge make certain:

- park the unit on a level surface.
- the engine is turned off and the ignition key is removed from the ignition switch.
- the park brake is engaged.
- the deck clutch switch is in the disengaged position and the blades have stopped.

**WARNING** Never place hands or feet into the discharge area. The mower blade is relatively close to the housing and will cause severe injury. Use a probe to clean debris from the discharge chute area.

**WARNING** Never engage the mower deck unless the complete side catcher, mulching system or side discharge chute is in place and in the lowest position.

### Unloading the Side Catcher

**WARNING** Before unloading the catcher:

- park the unit on a level surface.
- the engine is turned off and the ignition key is removed from the ignition switch.
- the park brake is engaged.
- the deck clutch switch is in the disengaged position and the blades have stopped.

1. Get off the mower. Grab the two catcher handles and remove the catcher from the mower by lifting the back end and sliding the catcher towards the front to release the front catcher frame latch. Figure 3-2

**WARNING** Use proper lifting techniques to avoid back injury. Be sure you have secure footing before attempting to lift the catcher.

2. Unlatch the rear catcher door and lift it out of the catcher frame. Set it to the side. Figure 3-4

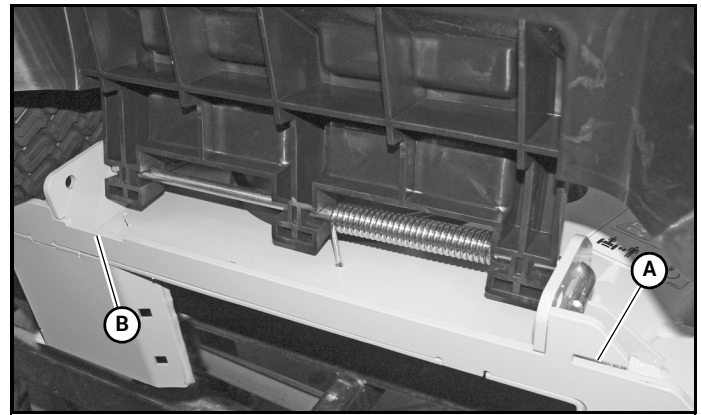
**NOTE:** The catcher may become too heavy to remove from the mower and carry when mowing wet grass. When this occurs, open the rear catcher door and empty

some of the clippings out of the catcher before removing it from the mower. Use a hoe or rake to remove the clippings.

**WARNING** ⚠

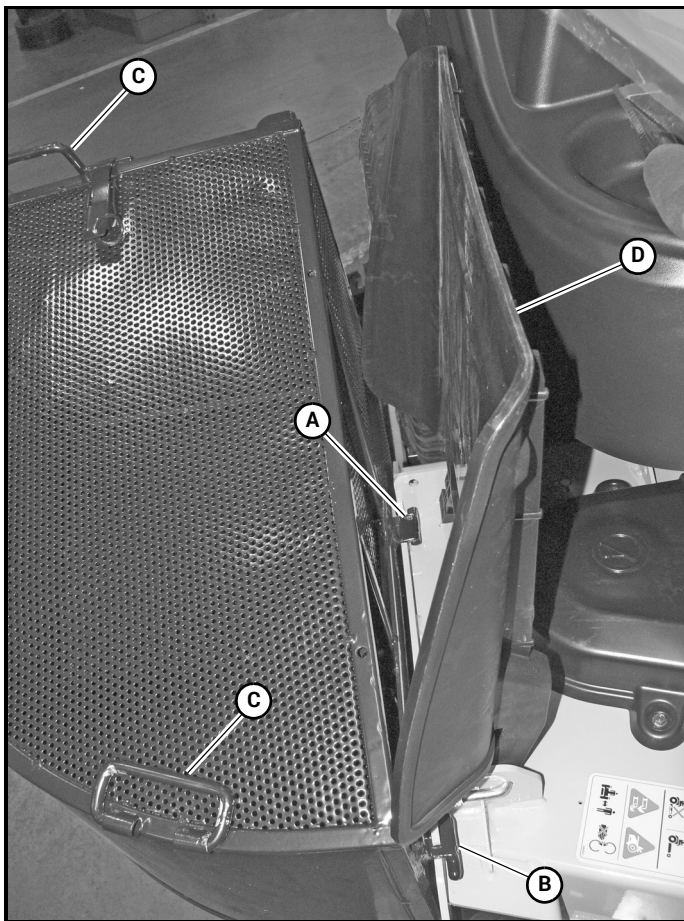
Never put your hands or any other body parts inside the catcher as there are sharp edges which can cause cuts.

3. Empty the catcher by tipping it towards the back until the grass falls out.
4. When the catcher is empty, slide the rear catcher door into position and latch in place. Figure 3-4
5. To put the catcher back on the mower lift the discharge chute to allow access to the mower discharge opening. Slide the catcher rearward until the front catcher frame latch is secured in place. Then, hook the rear catcher guide over the mower discharge opening lip. Figure 3-2 & Figure 3-3



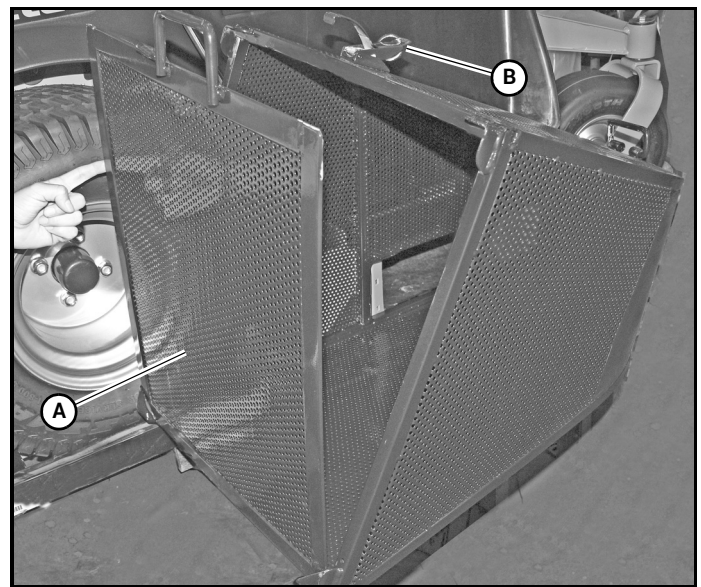
- A.** Slide the front catcher frame latch into this slot.  
**B.** Slide the rear catcher guide over this edge.

**Figure 3-3**



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>A.</b> Rear catcher guide<br/> <b>B.</b> Front catcher frame latch</p> | <p><b>C.</b> Catcher handles<br/> <b>D.</b> Side discharge chute latch</p> |
|--|--|

**Figure 3-2**



- A.** Rear catcher door      **B.** Latch

**Figure 3-4**

### Converting To Side Discharge Mode

Remove the side catcher and lower the side discharge chute to its lowest position when catching is not desired.

**IMPORTANT:** Make certain the discharge chute is lowered to the mowing position before mowing.

**WARNING** ⚠

Always operate with complete side catcher system, mulching system or side discharge chute in place and in the lowest position.

## Cleaning the Side Catcher

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The side catcher will perform better and last longer if it is cleaned after each use. Use a water hose and water to clean the catcher.



**WARNING**



Always wear eye protection when cleaning the catcher.

Never put your hands or any other body parts inside the catcher as there are sharp edges which can cause cuts.

# EXCEL

## INDUSTRIES

### Side Catcher Warranty Policy

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Excel Industries, Inc. makes the following warranty to the **original purchaser** only:

- a. Excel Industries, Inc. Attachments and Accessories are warranted for **one (1) year (parts and labor) from date of delivery** on all materials and workmanship. If the Purchaser discovers within this warranty period a defect in materials or workmanship:
  - He must promptly notify an authorized dealer of the defect. In no event shall such notification be received

by an authorized dealer later than **thirteen (13) months** from date of delivery.

- Within a reasonable time after such notification, Excel Industries, Inc. will correct any defect in material or workmanship on the Excel Industries, Inc. turf equipment, by repairing or replacing part(s) with either new or used replacement parts.
- Such repair, including parts and labor shall be at the expense of Excel Industries, Inc.

### General Information

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#### Who Must Perform The Warranty Service

All warranty service will be performed by authorized dealers. **Service calls and/or transportation expense** of the product to and from the authorized dealer, for warranty work, will be paid by the owner of the product. For warranty service contact an authorized dealer.

#### What Is Not Covered By This Warranty

Excel Industries, Inc. does not warranty:

- Repairs made by unauthorized persons.
- Damage caused by use of the Excel Industries, Inc. turf equipment for purposes other than those for which it was designed.
- Damages caused by disasters such as fire, flood, wind, and lightning.
- Damages caused by neglect, abuse, abnormal use, improper or unreasonable use, accident, negligence or misuse.
- Repairs or replacement resulting from the use of unauthorized parts, accessories or attachments.
- Damage caused by foam filled or solid filled tires.
- Repairs or replacement as the result of alterations or modifications.
- Excel Industries, Inc. turf equipment which has the serial number removed or made illegible.
- Depreciation or damage caused by normal wear, lack of reasonable and proper maintenance, failure to follow the product's operator's manual operating, maintenance and adjustment instructions or other operational instructions provided by Excel Industries, Inc.
- Normal maintenance parts and service including, but not limited to, lubricants, belts, blades, blade sharpening, or bearings.

#### Disclaimer Of Warranty

THE FOREGOING WARRANTIES ARE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. However, if the Excel Industries, Inc. turf equipment is purchased as a consumer product, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose is limited to the duration of this limited warranty. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

#### Limitations Of Warranties

IN NO CASE SHALL EXCEL INDUSTRIES, INC., BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES BASED UPON BREACH OF WARRANTY, BREACH OF CONTRACT, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY IN TORT, OR ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY.

Such damages include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of profits
- Loss of savings or revenue
- Loss of use of Excel Industries, Inc. turf equipment or any associated equipment
- Cost of capital
- Cost of any substitute equipment, facilities, services or downtime
- The claims of third parties including customers, and injury to property

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

#### No Other Warranties

Unless modified in writing, signed by both parties, and approved by the President of Excel Industries, Inc., this

agreement is understood to be the complete and exclusive agreement between the parties, superseding all prior agreements, oral or written, and all other communications between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement. No employee of Excel Industries, Inc., or any other party is authorized to make any warranty in addition to those made in this agreement.

### **Allocation Of Risks**

This agreement allocates the risks of product failure between Excel Industries, Inc. and the purchaser. This allocation is recognized by both parties and is reflected in the price of the goods.

### **Owner's Responsibility**

You must maintain your Excel Industries, Inc. Product following the maintenance procedures described in your operator's manual. Such routine maintenance, whether performed by a dealer or by you, is at your expense.

**This machine like any other powered equipment is potentially dangerous unless properly operated.** Any operator **must** be cautious and keep safety in mind at all times. Any operator, prior to using the Excel Industries, Inc. turf equipment, should thoroughly familiarize himself with the operator's manual regarding operation and safety of the machine, as well as all safety warnings on the machine itself.

### **Warranty Registration**

- **Hustler® Dealers must** register the attachment on-line at <https://dealer.hustlerturf.com> within **ten (10) days** following date of purchase.

- **Big Dog® Dealers must** register the attachment on-line at <https://excel.warrantysmart.arinet.com> within **ten (10) days** following date of purchase.
- The date of purchase constitutes delivery.
- Failure to register the attachment may void the warranty.

### **Australia Special Information**

**The following information is for Australian consumers only.**

**The benefits to the consumer given by this warranty are in addition to other rights and remedies of the consumer under a law in relation to the goods or services to which this warranty relates.**

Our goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian consumer law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and for compensation for any reasonable foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to a major failure.

### **Powerup Lawncare Products**

**11 Sodium St.**

**Narangba, Qld 4504**

**Telephone 1300 363 027**

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