EPA settles on nat'l emissions standards for small engines

By HAL PHILLIPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Small engines may cost $5 to $7 more to manufacture come 1997, when the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) new regulations on small-engine emissions take effect.

The EPA has finalized the first national set of regulations affecting small, gasoline-powered engines used primarily in the turf and lawn & garden industries. Under the new guidelines, all small engines — anything at or below 19 kilowatts (about 25 horsepower) — manufactured after Jan. 1, 1997, are expected to conform. EPA expects the new guidelines will result in a 32 percent reduction in hydrocarbon emissions and a 7 percent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions.

“This goal was announced in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990,” explained EPA Environmental Scientist Mary Walsh. “We had a timetable whereby these changes had to be completed by a certain time. This rule change was delayed for a while, but eventually there was a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club which furthered things along.”

Repercussions in the golf industry will be widespread, as the engines used in mowers, utility vehicles, hand-held blowers and trimmers, golf cars and pumps among others will be expected to fall in line. According to Walsh, the $5 to $7 increase will represent a 2 percent cost hike for non-hand-held equipment (6 percent for hand-held) relative to current production costs.

All those engines produced for the 1997 model year must comply. All existing inventories are grandfathered and, as long as there is no evidence of stockpiling of:

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JUPITER, Fla. — Scorecard Plus, which specializes in custom-designed booklets that serve as yardage guides and scorecards for commercial golf facilities and scorecards,” explained company president Allen James at 202-872-3860.

The makers of Verti-Drain have introduced the Verti-Brush, a machine incorporating a new technology (patent pending) for brushing and in-ear irrigation holes. Unlike rotating or reciprocating brushes, the open bolt pitch Verti-Brush picks up the sand and forcefully dispenses it over the surface. The unit weighs 220 pounds and has a working width of six feet. Power required is 480 rpm and is approximately 6 hp. For more information, call Emrex — national distributor for Verti-Drain and Verti-Brush — at 717-288-9860. For more new products, see page 42.

NGF buying program attracts second firm

RIES notebook

RISE Annual Meeting scheduled for Sept.

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sporting the theme, “Stewardship in Action,” the RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) Annual Meeting will be held here Sept. 7-10, at The Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, just outside Washington, D.C.

The deadline for hotel reservations and early registration is Aug. 16. For more information on the meeting and RISE membership, contact Executive Director Allen James at 202-872-3860.

Through its various committees, members of the specialty chemical trade association will collectively concentrate on several issues during the September conclave:

• cooperation with federal representatives and agencies to assure fair and appropriate legislation and regulation;

• learning successful environmental stewardship programs;

• becoming personally involved with efforts to promote stewardship in the specialty chemical industry;

• addressing issues as an industry united.

For more information contact Mid-Am at 1-800-292-5678. For more new products, see page 42.

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Golf Course Marketplace

EPA alleges FIFRA violations by DuPont

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a civil administrative complaint to E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (DuPont) of Wilmington, Del., for alleged violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

In a 24-count complaint, EPA has alleged that DuPont violated FIFRA by selling and distributing three Benlate (benomyl) fungicide products that differ chemically from the original formula the company had registered with the agency, according to EPA spokesperson Gwendolyn Brown. FIFRA prohibits the sale or distribution of any registered pesticide in which the composition, at the time of sale or distribution, differs from its composition as described in the statement required in connection with its registration.

"They have requested a hearing," said EPA attorney Jim Chen. "Whenever a judge gets assigned, the hearing will go forward. It could be several months, up to a year. In the meantime, I expect the DuPont attorney to file a series of motions."

The three products in question are Benlate 50 DF (dry soluble) Fungicide, Olympic Benlate 50 DF and DuPont Benlate Fungicide. The complaint proposes a penalty assessment of $120,000. Prior to its November 1992 corporate statement that normal, the plant damage was due to use of Benlate, the company paid approximately $500 million to growers to settle Benlate related damage claims, said Brown.

The EPA has issued its FY 1994 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Accomplishments Report, which highlights major policies in addition to national, state and federal enforcement/compliance initiatives. It also summarizes significant cases and provides aggregate statistics on enforcement action and penalties.

The report is available from EPA by calling 202-260-2080.

EPA emissions

Uncertified engines, there should be no problem," said Walsh.

The phrase, "As California goes, so goes the country," holds here. Two years ago, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) passed emission standards widely perceived to be ahead of the regulatory curve. Though golf cars received a short extension, all turf-industry equipment mandated by federal EPA concerns hand-held machinery (EPA considers something after soliciting input from a number of firms and trade associations in the small-engine market. Those connected to the golf course industry included Briggs & Stratton Corp., CARB, Echo Inc., the Engine Manufacturers Association, American Honda Motor Co., Kohler Co., Kubota Corp., the North American Equipment Dealers Association, and The Toro Co.

GOLF COURSE NEWS