

THE NEW MOWER STANDARDS - The second piece of federal legislation involves the Consumer Product Safety Commission and its proposed new safety standards aimed at reducing 75 percent of the 77,000 injuries that occur each year as the result of contact with the mowing blade of walk-behind power mowers.

Under mandatory standards issued by the CPSC, all mowers manufactured after December 31, 1981 will be required to shield the operator from the blade at the mower's rear housing and discharge chute. Mowers will also be required to carry a blade control system that will stop the blade without stopping the engine, unless the machine has power restart capabilities.

As might be expected, the power mower industry, headed by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute and FMC Corp., have been engaged in a concerted lobbying effort to protest the proposed standards.

The standards, they say, stifle innovation and will be more costly to consumers. The industry estimates that the new rules would increase the cost of each mower by about \$40, and feels consumers will not likely pay that much. Also, the suggested conversion to the less-expensive and safer nylon string cutting system would, they say, force the consumer to give up some lawn aesthetics.

If that weren't enough to bring the mower industry up in arms, word also has it that they may soon have to face EPA noise standard. Today's mower noise ranges up to 87 decibels, but may be limited to 82 decibels by 1981 and to 73 by 1987.

RECREATION - A Popular Pastime - by Jack Baker, Vice President
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Earlier this year one of the national publications carried a lengthy report on LEISURE - where there's no recession in sight. It went on to show our fellow Americans were spending better than 180 billions of dollars on leisure activities with some 20 million people participating in golfing. That's where we want to put our focus and see this steadily increase year after year. How fortunate we are to be a part of an industry that attracts complete family involvement. It has been suggested that more promotion be given to family-participation sports and golf heads the list. Don't forget that old tried and true adage - "The family that plays together - stays together."

Continuing to improve and make our courses as attractive as possible will insure bringing in more players - are you doing your share?