

# Are You Using the right 2-Cycle Engine Oil?



About ten years ago, some two-cycle engine manufacturers came together with the Industrial Standardization Organization and standardized the two-cycle oil to be used in their products. That standard became known as ISO L-E standard. They also needed a way to test two-cycle oil and have it certified. This is where JASO certification comes in. JASO stands for Japanese Automotive Standard Organization.

The current ISO L standard is ISO L-EGD and the JASO certification is JASO FC. Just because a two-cycle engine oil label says that it meets and exceeds the ISO L-EGD standard does not necessarily mean that it does. It needs the JASO certification on the label, along with the certification number, to truly meet and exceed the ISO standard.

These specifications are much like the SAE and API classifications on engine oil for your car or truck. As long as the ISO standard and JASO certification appear on the label, you can use it in any two-cycle engine that powers a blower, chainsaw, lawnmower, snowblower, stingtrimmer, etc., regardless of what oil-to-gas ratio it uses (32:1, 40:1, 50:1, etc.).

The standardization of two-cycle oil is important because of federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations as well as C.A.R.B. (California Air Resource Board) standards. With the more stringent emissions requirements, the engine manufacturers realized it was necessary to have a two-cycle oil that was standard for the outdoor power equipment (OPE) industry. The leaned out fuel systems did not allow much tolerance for error when it came down to gas oil ratios or the wrong oil.

Two-cycle oil for an outboard marine motor is not the same as for outdoor power equipment. Nor is two-cycle oil for outdoor power equipment the same as for outboard marine engines. The marine motor is cooled by water, and OPE equipment is cooled by air. The marine engine runs at a lower speed at full throttle. A chainsaw could rev up to over 10,000 rpm.

The next time you pick up some two-cycle oil for your outdoor power equipment, look for the JASO certification and make sure your using the right two-cycle oil.

The following is an excerpt from Stihl's website on their 2-cycle engine oil: <http://www.stihlusa.com>

## Low Smoke Oil

STIHL's Low Smoke Oil blend of 2-cycle engine oil has all the features and benefits of High-Performance oil, but with reduced smoke in the exhaust. **It meets and exceeds the ISO L-EGD Standard and is JASO FC certified.** It provides superior bearing and piston lubrication at high temperatures, protects against piston scuffing and seizure, and keeps rings and ports free of carbon build-up. Available in 2.6 oz., 6.4 oz., 12.8 oz. and 1 gallon or 5 gallon pails.

## STIHL High Performance 2-cycle Engine Oil

STIHL 2-cycle oils are premium-quality, conventional petroleum based engine oils designed to deliver the highest levels of engine protection in modern, high-performance, air-cooled 2-cycle engines. They contain a pour depressant to aid in low temperature applications and a mixing agent (solvent) to aid in mixing with gasoline. STIHL oils are fully compatible with oxygenated fuels. **-OC**