

Deere, Kohler on course to meet Calif. emission standards

While many companies must scramble to meet 1994 California clean air standards, Deere & Co. of Moline, Ill., and Kohler Co. of Kohler, Wis., seem to have prepared for the future, according to officials of the two companies.

Many Deere products already comply with these regulations.

The same is true for most Kohler Magnum and all Command engines. Kohler, like all small engine manufacturers, must surpass 1994 emission reductions by at least 60 percent in 1999.

A high percentage of Deere mowers include overhead valve engines. This advanced engine design provides improved

fuel efficiency and emits fewer hydrocarbons.

The overhead valve design requires less cylinder surface, so there are fewer cool spots on the cylinder wall.

A more uniformly hot cylinder wall allows more complete fuel combustion while passing fewer hydrocarbons into exhaust gas.

The engines regulated by California standards are the type used in walk-behind lawn mowers, rear-engine riding mowers, lawn tractors, lawn and garden tractors, leaf blowers, line trimmers and other outdoor power equipment.

State officials estimate the new Califor-

nia standards will reduce emission levels of lawn and garden and utility equipment engines by 55 percent.

The first phase of the new regulations will reduce emissions by 45 percent, they say.

Foundries, once thought to be manufacturing's largest pollution source, have become a source of pride for Deere.

Modern, all-electric foundries in East Moline, Ill., and Waterloo, Iowa, have been used by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish air pollution standards.

When Kohler first learned of California's call for small engines in 1989, Kohler and

the Outdoor Power Equipment Institutes swung into action.

That was the beginning of more than a year of coalition building with the outdoor power equipment industry and attending negotiatory workshop meetings with CARB.

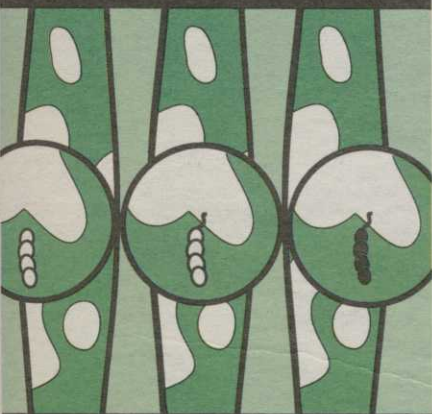
Today's CARB standards are considered far more reasonable than originally proposed, due in part to Kohler taking an active role in helping CARB to better understand the specifics of small engine applications.

Those seeking more information on these products should telephone Deere at 309-765-4212 or Kohler at 414-457-4441.

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