



**OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE**

OUTDOOR POWER REPORT

A QUARTELY UPDATE FOR OPEI MEMBERS

APRIL 2014

Message from Kris Kiser, President and CEO



While some might be grumbling about the hassle of never-ending snow storms, for our industry, it was a winter season full of brisk sales. With spring come concerns about misfueling with the increasing availability of mid-level ethanol blended fuels. We're happy to report that many retailers and dealers are helping get the industry's 'Look Before You Pump' message out to consumers. In February, we announced that Lowe's, Walmart, True Value and the DIY television network are supporting this educational program through signage, circulars and social media support and independent dealers continue to bring that message to customers through their efforts. To get materials for your retailers and dealers, or have any questions call OPEI. Join us at the upcoming OPEI Annual Meeting June 17- 19 in Palm Beach, FL. We have renowned speakers lined up, including Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, former U.S. trade representative and known as the architect and negotiator of China's WTO agreement, Peter Sheahan, acclaimed author, speaker and business trends expert, Dr. Chad Moutray, chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers and Chris Grundler, director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality.

MARKET STATISTICS

- OPEI and the European Garden Machinery Industry Federation's (EGMF) Market Statistics Committee met on March 25-26 to continue discussion of the creation of an integrated system for the collection of global market statistics. The associations are currently planning to conduct a formal cost/benefit analysis of a prospective program.
- OPEI will expand reporting of data for electric/battery powered products during 2014, to include chainsaws, snow throwers, string trimmers and hedge trimmers.

UTILITY VEHICLES

- UTV/B71.9 Committee submitted comments to CPSC staff regarding recommendations to ROHVA. Comments highlighted differences between utility vehicles under OPEI/ANSI B71.9 and ROHVA/ANSI ROHVA 1-2011. The Committee also provided suggestions for additional revisions to the OPEI/ANSI B71.9 standard to further distinguish utility vehicles.

CPSC

- A task group of the OPEI's Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee is considering draft comments to new CPSC rulemaking which proposes revision to "section 6(b)" which governs agency disclosure of manufacturer/product information.
- OPEI submitted comments to the CPSC on January 22 on its NPRM regarding Voluntary Remedial Actions and Guidelines for Voluntary Recall Notices expressing industry concerns with proposed changes.

CHEMICAL & SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES

- On March 13, California's Department of Toxic Substances Control announced the first three proposed "Priority Products" for regulation under the state's new Safer Consumer Products Regulation.
- The first compliance deadline to the SEC's new conflict minerals reporting requirement is May 31.

LEGISLATION

- In March, the House Energy & Commerce Committee released a committee working draft (Chemicals in Commerce Act) aimed at the reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The House language is largely in line with the formerly introduced S. 1009 (Vitter/Udall), and there is bi-partisan interest in considering the bills as a workable starting point, but chances for passage are still remote.

TURF

- OPEI submitted comments on proposed changes to ASHRAE 189.1 Green Building Code which proposes further restrictions on the use of turfgrass in the landscape.

EPA/FUELS/WORLD WIDE ENGINE EMISSIONS

- U.S. EPA – Auto Tier 3 Final Rule was signed March 3. Among other emission and fuel sulfur level changes, the rule requires auto manufacturer's to use E10/10psi RVP certification fuel by 2020. The preamble notes specifically that the certification fuel change does not apply to nonroad manufacturers, but that future action is expected for this sector to align with "real-world" in-use fuel.
- NMMA Fuel Additives Certification Program – The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 16.
- Environment Canada – EC's draft amendment for MY 2015 was expected in March. EC staff noted that while delayed, a spring publication is still targeted.
- EU – European Commission released a presentation regarding the revision of 97/68/EC. The draft shows alignment with current EPA Phase 3 exhaust gas limits as of 2019/2020. EC noted that EVAP emission regulations were "pending".
- China – China has proposed a spark-ignited engine safety standard. Engines and Fuels Committee is working to review the standard and prepare comments.
- Australia – Nonroad engine emission rule-making appears to be indefinitely postponed as a result of the Council of Australian Government's streamlining and periodization activities.

ANSI STANDARDS

- ANSI/OPEI B175.2/3/4, handheld products standards, Project Initiation Summary (PINS) have been submitted, initiating the next standard revisions. The committee's spring meetings will be held May 13 – May 14 at OPEI offices.
- ANSI/OPEI B175.1-2012/A1-2014 Engine-Powered Handheld Chain Saws – Safety and Environment Requirements Amendment 1 open for public comment and canvass ballot through March 24. Planned publication in spring 2014.
- Canvass balloting of the OPEI proposed revision of ANSI B71.3:2005 (snow throwers) closed on March 10. OPEI will be assessing the results and resolving comments to facilitate publication of the new standard.
- The OPEI Tiller Committee is in the final stages of preparing a revision of ANSI B71.8 for canvass ballot later this spring.
- ANSI/OPEI B71.10-201#, Fuel Systems Standard, PINS has been submitted, initiating the next standard revision. The Committee held its kick-off meeting March 20. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20.

ISO/INTERNATIONAL/EUROPE

- The EU proposed its draft conflict minerals rule in mid-March. As development proceeds, U.S. manufacturers are keenly interested as to whether the rules are inherently disadvantageous to importers into the EU.
- A delegation of OPEI member representatives will represent the U.S. at the next round of meetings of ISO TC 23 SC 13 on May 22-23 in Milan. On the agenda are amendments to the ISO/EN standard for lawn mowers (5395) and a new revision of the ISO standard for snow throwers.
- The US TAG to TC23/SC17 continues work on brushcutter and chainsaw standard revisions. The TC23/SC17 committee is scheduled to meet again in Tsukuba, Japan in October 2014

UPCOMING OPEI MEETINGS

- April 1, Green Codes and Standards Coalition, OPEI, Alexandria, VA
- April 2, Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee, OPEI, Alexandria, VA
- April 8-9, OPEI Board Meeting, OPEI, Alexandria, VA
- April 15, B71.9, UTV Committee, Webinar
- April 23, OPEI Committee Chairs Meeting, Web Teleconference
- May 5-9, IEC MT 3 Meeting, Electric Product Standards, Berlin, Germany
- May 12, Engine and Fuels Committee, OPEI, Alexandria, VA
- May 13, Handheld Products Committee (HHPC), OPEI, Alexandria, VA
- May 13-15, B175 Handheld Standards Committees, OPEI, Alexandria, VA
- May 16, CSA Z62.1 Standard Committee Meeting, Toronto, Canada
- May 19-23, ISO TC23 SC13 Meeting, Milan, Italy
- May 20, B71.10, Fuel Systems Committee, Webinar
- May 27-28, SABC and RCBC Recycling Meetings, Vancouver, British Columbia
- May 28, ANSI AIF Meeting, Washington, DC
- June 3, Legal and Regulatory Compliance Committee, Web Teleconference
- June 16-17, Summer OPEI Board of Directors Meeting – Palm Beach, FL
- June 17-19, OPEI Annual Meeting – Palm Beach, FL

