



**OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE**

OUTDOOR POWER REPORT

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OPEI MEMBERS

JANUARY 2014

Message from Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI



So far, 2014 has been about snow, ice and winter storms across the country. For the OPE industry that has translated into a robust sales season. We look forward to building on that momentum into the spring season. As consumers pull out or buy new outdoor power equipment for the winter storm season, OPEI will continue to educate and inform consumers and dealers about the dangers of misfueling with mid- and higher-level ethanol blends through our 'Look Before You Pump' campaign. CNN and NBC, among other national news outlets, have run stories across the country about the changing fuel market and why consumers should make sure they use no more than 10 percent ethanol in their small engines, outdoor power equipment and UTVs. We continue to encourage dealers to visit our Web Portal to download materials for their stores, and we are optimistic that OPEI's 'Look Before You Pump' campaign will hit big box retail stores in 2014. To find out more for you or your dealers, visit www.LookBeforeYouPump.com.

MARKET STATISTICS

- OPEI is continuing discussions with the European Garden Machinery Industry Federation (EGMF) to advance development of a system for the global collection of industry market statistics. Joint meetings of the associations' respective statistical committees are planned for 2014.
- OPEI plans to expand the 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 is reviewing CPSC Staff recommendations to ROHVA as part of ANSI/OPEI B71.9 revision process.

ELECTRIC OUTDOOR PRODUCTS/ ANSI STANDARDS/ IEC STANDARDS

- The OPEI Robotic Electric Lawnmower Committee is in the process of development of a North American adoption of the IEC standard for robotic lawnmowers, to be issued as an ANSI standard. The committee includes representatives from fourteen OPEI member companies.
- The IEC TC 116 MT 3 Committee will meet in the U.S. in January 2014. Projects on the agenda include IEC 62841-4-xx standards for electric Hedge Trimmers, Chain Saws, Lawn Trimmers and Lawn Edge Trimmers, Brush Cutters and Grass Trimmers, and working drafts for Top Handle Chain Saws and Pole Pruners.

CPSC

- OPEI's LRC Committee submitted comments on October 21st to the CPSC on its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding CPSC staff participation in standards committees.
- OPEI's LRC Committee is preparing comments to the CPSC on its NPRM regarding Voluntary Remedial Actions and Guidelines for Voluntary Recall Notices.

TRADE

- On January 9, companion bills were introduced in the U.S. House and Senate, aimed at providing "fast track" trade authority to the Obama administration, principally aimed at easing final agreement to the pending Pacific (TPP) and EU (T-TIP) trade deals. While the legislation would require up or down votes in Congress, which is the key White House interest, it would also require heightened scrutiny on currency issues, and allow for bolstered oversight.
- OPEI has finalized comments to the U.S. Trade Representative on the talks currently underway with the EU in negotiation of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, specifically raising concerns with efforts to adopt consensus international safety standards.

LEGISLATION

- Senators Feinstein (D-CA) and Coburn (R-OK) introduced the Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act of 2013 on December 12, aimed at reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) by removing the corn ethanol mandate.
- House efforts at RFS reform during the second session of the 113th Congress are expected to continue around the various pending proposals, with significant bi-partisan support. Expectations for passage of a bill are tempered by both the lack of agreement around a single approach and the positive perception of EPA responsiveness in lowering the mandate(s) for 2014.

EPA/FUELS/WORLD WIDE ENGINE EMISSIONS

- On December 5th, EPA officials heard over 13 hours of testimony in response to their proposal to lower the RFS mandates(s) for 2014. The proposed rule marks the 1st time the agency has proposed reducing the overall statutory volume required of renewables.
- U.S. EPA – Auto Tier 3 Final Rule expected early 2014.
- NMMA Fuel Additives Certification Program – OPEI continues to participate in program development.
- Environment Canada – Reduced exhaust and new evaporative emissions in-line with U.S. EPA Phase 3 being drafted for 2015 MY implementation.
- EU – Revised EU 97/68/EC proposal due early 2014.
- China – Fuel consumption standard expected for early 2014. Work on next stage of exhaust gas emissions to begin 2014.
- Australia – Non-road Spark Ignited Engines and Equipment emissions rules expected by the end of 2014.

ANSI STANDARDS

- ANSI/OPEI B175.1-2012/A1-2014 Engine-Powered Handheld Chain Saws –Safety and Environment Requirements Amendment 1 open for public comment. Planned publication Spring 2014.
- ANSI/OPEI B175.2/A1-2013 Engine Powered Handheld Backpack Blowers and Blower-Vacuums – Safety Requirements and Performance Testing Procedures Amendment 1. Published December 30, 2013.
- ANSI/OPEI B175.3 Handheld Engine-Powered Grass Trimmers and Brushcutters –Safety and Environmental Requirements. Published October 22, 2013.
- ANSI/OPEI B175.4-2013 Handheld Engine-Powered Cut-Off Machines – Safety and Environmental Requirements. Published November 22, 2013.
- OPEI is now finalizing a 2014 revision of ANSI/OPEI B71.3 – Snow Throwers, Safety Specification. Following final ballot and publication the new standard will replace the existing 2005 edition.
- OPEI has registered with ANSI to develop a new standard for gasoline-powered walk behind string trimmers. Committee formation is now underway with an initial meeting planned for early 2014.

TURF

- The official groundbreaking of “[The Grass Roots Initiative: A Science-Based Focus on Turfgrass](#)” was held on November 15th at the U.S. Arboretum in Washington, DC. OPEI is lending support to the four year public/private initiative, intended to provide a public demonstration of the many positive attributes of turfgrass in landscapes.
- OPEI represents member interests in green building codes and standards (ASHRAE, IgCC, ASABE) challenging arbitrary turfgrass limitations and advocating for balanced requirements for sustainable landscapes that provide benefit, address the needs of the site, and consider local climate conditions.

ISO/INTERNATIONAL/EUROPE

- In follow-up to the 2013 publication of a new ISO standard for lawnmowers, European proposals have now been circulated to amend the standard’s requirements for roll-over protective structures (ROPS) and side-discharge guarding of walk-behind mowers.
- Early this year, the U.S. plans to propose a revision of ISO 8437, the international safety standard for gas-powered snow throwers. Consideration of the proposal will be taken up by the member countries of ISO TC 23 SC 13.

UPCOMING OPEI MEETINGS

- January 27-30, IEC TC 116 MT 3 Committee Meeting, Orlando, Florida
- February 25, MSC Forecast Panel, OPEI Alexandria, VA
- March 4-5, Lawnmower & Commercial Turf Care Committees, Sarasota, FL
- March 19-20, Market Statistics Committee, Sarasota, FL
- April 2, Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee, OPEI Alexandria, VA
- April 8-9, OPEI Board Meeting, OPEI Alexandria, VA
- April 23, OPEI Committee Chairs Meeting, Webinar
- 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