



MESSAGE FROM KRIS KISER, OPEI PRESIDENT:

The largest event for our industry, 2014 GIE+EXPO, will reflect a record number of attendees and indoor and outdoor exhibitors in its history this year, October 22 to 24 at the Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Attendees will experience unique and new demonstrations and exhibits including Hardscape North America, again co-locating with GIE+EXPO. In other news, The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has formally joined OPEI and the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) as a partner in the national “Look Before You Pump” effort, OPEI’s ethanol education and consumer protection campaign.

MARKET STATISTICS

- Later this fall, OPEI will launch a new online site for posting of member-only market statistics reports, forecasts, and committee working documents.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTS

- Electric’s Committee is near completion of a North America Standard for Electric Robotic Lawnmowers, expected in 2015.

FEDERAL REGULATION

- OPEI filed comments with the Federal Trade Commission advocating for improved labelling of gasoline pumps to reduce the risk of small engine/OPE misfueling with mid-level ethanol blended gasoline.
- OPEI joins coalition effort before the CPSC to raise policy and legal concerns with new obligations being created for manufacturers conducting voluntary recalls.
- OPEI joins CPSC Workshop relating to proposed rulemaking affecting Certificates of Compliance for imported regulated products, the Risk Assessment Methodology (RAM) Program, and the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Filing Requirements and Agency Pilots Program. September 18.
- GAO –OPEI interviewed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) for responses to a questionnaire on the CPSC’s performance and responsiveness to formal industry concerns.

STATE ISSUES

- On July 18, OPEI filed comments with the Chicago City Council in response to a proposed ordinance to mandate city-wide sales of E15 blended gasoline. In response to broad stakeholder opposition, the bill’s sponsors have withdrawn the measure but reportedly plan to introduce a revised bill later this fall.
- A model bill is being promoted for state adoption across the country to legislate requirements for the recycling of single use and rechargeable batteries. OPEI is commenting on problematic language included in this model bill potentially affecting manufacturers of battery operated outdoor power equipment.

UTILITY VEHICLES

- CPSC proposed rule for vehicles exceeding 30mph (including B71.9 MOHUVs) includes a 30mph J-turn test with a minimum 0.7g lateral acceleration pass/fail criteria, a constant radius test to determine oversteer and understeer, seatbelt speed interlocks, additional operator zone protection requirements and a rollover resistance hang tag. CPSC staff is scheduled to present a briefing package to the Commissioners on October 22. The Commissioners are currently scheduled to vote on the proposal October 29.

EPA/FUELS/WORLDWIDE ENGINE EMISSIONS

- OPEI submitted comments to EPA the agency’s draft guidance document concerning treatment of Confidential Business Information (CBI) in Compliance Documents. The draft guidance looks to make CBI determinations on broad categories (classes) of data included in compliance documents and reports, such as annual production (volume) and averaging, banking and trading (ABT) reports September 4.
- OPEI working with EPA on its development of a Direct Final Rule that would extend the optional use of CARB RFG3 (E10) certification fuel beyond 2019, expected to be published by the end of 2014. The rule will provide a certification fuel harmonization path for engine manufacturers, which must use E10 certification fuel in California by 2020. Also included in the rule is a provision to use the SAE J2996 test procedure for evap testing of small diameter fuel lines.

- European Commission proposed its new regulations for nonroad mobile machinery (NRMM) engines. The “Stage V” rule would further align small spark-ignited engine emissions limits with US EPA regulations. If approved, the new rule would require type approval for 2018.
- China has started work on its next phase of exhaust gas emissions regulations. The regulation development is scheduled to be completed by 2016. An implementation date is to be determined.
- Australia is expected to complete its Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for non-road spark-ignited engines and equipment by the end of the year. Authorities are considering US regulations and studying different enforcement strategies as part of the RIS.
- OPEI participates in the 3rd Annual International Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers Associations (IICEMA) meeting October 20-22 in Chicago. The group will review worldwide regulations for a variety of off-highway engines, including small spark-ignited. OPEI will host IICEMA attendees at the 2014 GIE+EXPO in Louisville.

TRADE

- OPEI is a participant in the Trade Benefits America coalition (Business Roundtable) which is making visits to congressional offices in support of passage of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation. This legislation is an essential prerequisite to the successful conclusion of both T-TIP and TPP.
- In cooperation with the National Association of Manufacturers, OPEI provided stakeholder input to the 7th round negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), held the week of September 29 in Washington, DC.

ANSI STANDARDS

- ANSI/OPEI B71.3-2014, Snow Throwers –published on September 15 by ANSI. The new standard replaces the 2005 edition, and is available free of charge to members and for public purchase on ANSI’s website.
- ANSI/OPEI B175.1-2012/A1-2014, Internal Combustion Engine-Powered Hand-held Chain Saws – Safety and Environmental Requirements, Amendment 1 was published on July 25.

TURFMUTT

- Reaching over 38 million kids, teachers and families, TurfMutt and his friends, the Outdoor Powers, are stepping up their mission to “Save the Planet One Yard at a Time” by partnering with Scholastic, Inc., the global leader in education and children’s media.

TURF

- OPEI consultant named vice-chair, Sites Subcommittee, Green Building Initiative’s standard.
- OPEI files appeal to proposed revisions to the ASHRAE 189.1 Standard which limits the amount of turfgrass which may be used on a site.
- ICC-700 is poised to eliminate turf disincentives and to provide incentives for grass paving systems as a result of the OPEI/ Greenscapes Alliance efforts.

UPCOMING OPEI MEETINGS

- October 13-17, IEC TC 116 MT 3 Committee, Frankfurt, Germany
- October 20-22, ISO TC 23 SC 17, Tsukuba, Japan
- October 22, OPEI Board of Directors, Louisville, Kentucky
- October 23-24, GIE+EXPO, Louisville, Kentucky
- October 28, OPEI Committee Chairs Forum
- November 3, Ground Supported Products Committee, Sarasota, FL
- November 4-5, Lawn Mower/Commercial Turf Care Committee(s), Sarasota, FL
- November 19-21, ISO TC 23 SC 17, Delft, Netherlands
- December 8-9, ASTM D02 Fuels & Lubricants Committee, San Diego, CA
- January 14, Legal & Regulatory Compliance Committee
- January 25-27, OPEI Board of Directors, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- February 9-12, IEC TC 116 MT 3 Committee, Tampa Bay, Florida



For more information contact Kristen Reamy at kreamy@opei.org or (703) 549-7600.



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
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