



Immediate Release

Small Spark Engine Emissions Standards – New Legislation

This morning in Canberra, Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg tabled the “Product Emissions Standards Bill”. The Product Emissions Standards Bill will allow new product emissions standards to be established for small spark engines (non-road), bringing us into line with the US, Canada and Europe.

The laws will cover petrol engines (Spark Ignition) under 19kW (25HP).

The Bill should progress through Parliament over the coming months, with both the Bill and the detailed Rules becoming Law by December. The standards will be phased in over two years and reduce noxious air pollution from petrol-powered outdoor equipment. This will allow manufacturers and importers time to cease the importation of non-compliant products and then a further year to clear stock. The rules will **only** apply to new imports after 1 July 2018. It is estimated that 53% of the power equipment being sold in Australia already meets the standard and many companies have already updated their product range to meet the proposed new standards.

“The Information paper published last December spelled out the details and timings so industry could get ready” advised Gary Fooks, chair of the cross industry Blue Sky Alliance. “This means industry has had 30 months to finish up the sales of high emission engines”, he added.

President of the OPEA Mr Tim McCarthy said “The OPEA has been working closely for many years with Blue Sky Alliance and AMEC to bring a resolution regarding compliant off road engines for the long-term benefit of all Australians. We very much welcome and support the Bill that has now been tabled and look forward to a favourable outcome on emissions standards”

The Australian standards will be based on the USA EPA rules, therefore Outdoor Power Equipment with USA, EU, Canada or California (CARB) certification will all pass without the need for further Australian certification.

For ground supported equipment like mowers, only four strokes will meet the standards. A separate standard for hand held equipment like chainsaws will see quality two stroke engines continue to dominate.

To read more about the Bill please go to - http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation

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Update Paper at <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/air-quality/publications/working-towards-australian-emission-standards-nrsiee-update-paper>