

EPA Re-Proposes New, More Stringent Standards for Handheld Lawn and Garden Equipment

On July 28, 1999 (64 FR 40940), EPA issued a revised proposal for Phase 2 standards for handheld SI engines at or below 25 horsepower (19 kilowatts) used in lawn and garden equipment. The proposed standards are significantly more stringent than the Phase 2 standards originally proposed by EPA in 1998, and reflect advances made in engine designs and the successful application of catalyst technology to this category of engines. The re-proposed HC+NOx standards are shown in Table 1. The 2006 standards for Classes III and IV are approximately 30% more stringent than the Tier 2 standards adopted last year by California's Air Resources Board which take effect in 2000. Three useful life categories are proposed to account for the widely varying product lives of various handheld engines - 50 hours, 125 hours, and 300 hours. The proposal includes a compliance program to ensure engines continue to meet standards for their useful life, including certification, product line testing, and voluntary in-use testing. An averaging, banking, and trading program is included to provide manufacturers with additional flexibility to meet the Phase 2 standards.

For more information regarding EPA's proposed program, visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/oms/equip-ld.htm> or call EPA at 734/214-4288.

Table 1
Re-Proposed HC+NOx Emission Standards for Handheld Engines (in g/kW-hr)
by Model Year

Engine Class	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 and later
Class III	226	200	150	100	50	50	50
Class IV	187	168	129	89	50	50	50
Class V	---	---	138	129	110	91	72

[July 28, 1999]