



EPA Gives California Green Light to Enforce Tough New Smog Rules for Yard Equipment

By: DAVE DOWNEY - Staff Writer *North County Times*

Catalytic converters have been used for years to curb smog-forming exhaust belched from vehicles, and on Jan. 1, the devices will make their debut on lawn mowers and other small engines.

New California air pollution regulations target small engines of less than 25 horsepower, and California earlier this week received a waiver from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enforce those rules. California is unique among the 50 states, in that it has authority to set air pollution standards that are more strict than federal rules. The state also can set pollution rules in areas where federal standards do not exist — once the state obtains a waiver.

Karen Caesar, a spokeswoman for the California Air Resources Board that wrote the rules, said that by next year, all new lawn mowers, weed trimmers, chainsaws, leaf blowers and similar equipment sold in California stores will be required to emit 35 percent less pollution than existing products.

Jerry Martin, a spokesman for the agency in Sacramento, said the standard does not specifically require engines to be built with catalytic converters, but most manufacturers are expected to use them to reach the smog-reduction targets.

Catalytic converters trigger chemical reactions that convert toxic byproducts of internal combustion into relatively benign gases. In lawn mowers, the devices will be quite small, or “the size of

a quarter,” Martin said.

While it might seem that these small engines’ contribution to smog would account for a small amount of pollution, state officials say they emit tons of pollution each day.

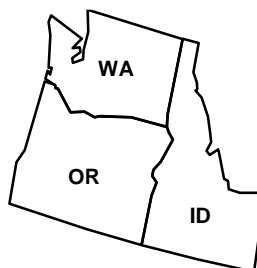
The air resources board blames gas-powered lawn and garden equipment for 4.5 percent of statewide smog created by mobile sources.

In San Diego County, where 300 tons of ozone-forming emissions are generated daily, lawn mowers and other outdoor power tools kick up an estimated 13.5 tons of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, said Rob Reider, planning supervisor for the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District.

Tina Cherry, a spokeswoman

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Marketplace Weather Forecast



January 2007
1st-3rd. Rain coast and valleys, snow higher. Unsettled weather for Rose Parade. **4th-7th.** Mostly fair skies, pleasant temps, especially for Calif. **8th-11th.** Severe Pacific storms sweep inland, heavy precipitation, heavy snow over higher terrains. **12th-15th.** Mostly fair, cold. **16th-19th.** Showery with gusty winds, especially Calif coast. **20th-23rd.** Turning very unsettled. **24th-27th.** Blustery winds accompanied by a clearing trend. **28th-31st.** Fair at first, but month ends wet.

January 2007
1st-3rd. Showery, milder. **4th-7th.** Mostly fair. **8th-11th.** Severe Pacific disturbances move inland, bringing heavy rains to coast and valley sections, and heavy snows higher areas. **12th-15th.** Mostly fair, cold. **16th-19th.** Gusty winds, scattered shwrs. **20th-23rd.** Fair, pleasant, quickly gives way to unsettled conditions. **24th-27th.** Clearing skies with gusty winds. **28th-31st.** Fair, turning wet.

Points of Interest:

- California mandates stricter pollution controls on small off-road gasoline engines
- Online Ordering is currently available to save you time and money! Here's how to start using it for free today
- If you get stuck in blizzard conditions, follow this great advice
- Universal Spray Wand fits most sprayers and is priced right for you and your customers

EPA Gives California Green Light to Enforce Tough New Smog Rules for Yard Equipment (cont.)

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for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, said the lawn tools account for 62 tons of smog-forming chemicals daily in the air basin of western Riverside, western San Bernardino, Orange and Los Angeles counties.

“As we clean up everything else, these types of small engines have become a bigger and bigger piece of the air pollution puzzle,” Martin said. “And the main reason for that is lawn mowers have been largely uncontrolled. In places like Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley, which have significant problems meeting air quality standards, the tons of reduction they are going to get from this (new rule) are going to be important.”

The rule on catalytic converters is not the only strategy that targets small engines. Regional air quality agencies have been offering residents of San Diego and Riverside counties incentives to trade out their old polluting lawn mowers for new, clean, electric models for several years.

Since 2000, the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District has issued 3,200 electric mowers and retired a like number of

grass cutters with gas-powered engines. Cherry said the South Coast district has exchanged 15,500 mowers since 2003 — as well as 1,500 leaf blowers in a new program that debuted this year.

Lawn mower traders are required to put up cash, usually \$100 to \$150, and mowers must be in working order, officials said.

The EPA’s decision to issue a waiver ended several years of dispute between California politicians and U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, whose state of Missouri is the home of two factories operated by Briggs & Stratton Corp., the nation’s largest maker of small engines.

Briggs & Stratton resisted installing catalytic converters, and Bond sought to block California from enforcing its new rule. Bond,

a Republican, backed off under pressure from Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California. But he managed to prevent other states from copying California’s rule, something they have been doing routinely under the Clean Air Act, and forcing them to wait on the federal government.

In a statement Tuesday, the acting air chief of the EPA, Bill Wehrum, said his agency will propose a federal small-engine rule early next year that could slash smog-forming emissions from lawn mowers by 40 percent in the other 49 states.

South Coast Air Quality Management District information is online at www.aqmd.gov. San Diego County Air Pollution Control District information is at www.sdapcd.org.

— The Associated Press contributed to this report. Contact staff writer Dave Downey at (760) 740-5442 or ddowney@nctimes.com.



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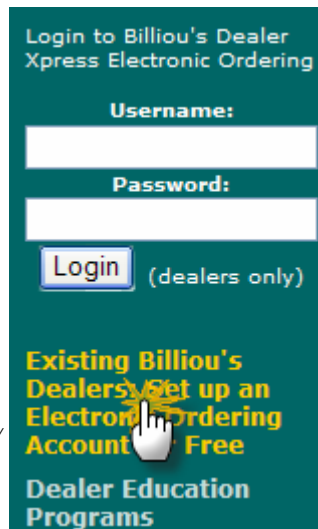
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(Continued from page 2)

pricing and availability

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PO#	Date Entered	Vendor
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Submitted Purchase Orders

PO#	Date Submitted	Confirmation Number
1000	10/13/2006	30
1001	10/19/2006	31
1006	11/08/2006	40
1003	11/07/2006	34
1006	11/14/2006	49

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Dealer Cost

\$14⁹⁷



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Humor is, As Humor Does

How to Survive a Blizzard

Up by Lake Woebegone, when Lena got off work, it was snowing heavily and blowing to the point that visibility was almost zero. As she made her way to her car, she was wondering how she was going to make it home. While her car warmed up, she remembered Ole's advice that if she got caught in a blizzard, she should wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it. That way she wouldn't get stuck in a snow drift. This made Lena feel much better and sure enough in a little while, a snow plow went by, and she started following it, feeling very smug as they continued, since she was having no problems with the snowy conditions.

After quite some time, she was surprised when the snow plow stopped and the driver got out, came back to her car, and signaled her to roll down her window.

The snow plow driver wanted to know if she was all right, as she had been following him for a long time. She said that she was fine and told him of Ole's advice to

follow a snow plow when caught in a blizzard.

The driver replied that it was okay with him, and she could continue if she wanted — but he was done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, and was going over to Kmart next. ☺

Why, Why, Why?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table, you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes? ☺