

RYOBI NEWS

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RYOBI TO LICENSE NEW ENGINE TECHNOLOGY THAT REDUCES LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT POLLUTION

CHANDLER, AZ, APRIL 10, 1995 - In a rare industry move, Ryobi North America today offered to license its advanced lawn and garden engine technology to other North American companies to assist them in meeting new environmental rules.

The new engine technology, a unique 4-cycle design, was developed by Ryobi Group companies and manufactured in Chandler, Arizona, for use on hand-held equipment such as grass trimmers, edgers, and blower/vacs. It is the first 4-cycle engine compact enough for use on hand-held lawn equipment, and it reduces exhaust pollutants by 80% compared to other engines of its size. The new engine runs so clean that it is the only hand-held engine able to meet all current environmental regulations, plus the tough emission standards scheduled to begin in California in 1999.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 5 percent of the smog in the U.S. is produced by lawn and garden equipment. For instance, running a grass trimmer for one hour can create the same amount of smog producing gasses as driving a car for 70 miles. This equipment also produces high levels of the poisonous gas carbon monoxide. Both EPA and the California Air Resources Board are working to limit the pollution by regulating exhaust emissions from lawn and garden equipment.

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Until now, the new engine was only available on Ryobi trimmers and edgers, which were first introduced last year. But Ryobi officials announced today that they will license the new technology to North American companies who want assistance to meet the tougher standards. Ryobi made the announcement at a workshop sponsored by the Air Resources Board in El Monte, California.

Some industry groups have sought to delay cleaner emission rules, saying that compliance would cost too much. Ryobi North America Chairman Akio Urakami said, "We know that some companies are having a difficult time meeting the new rules, particularly California's Tier II emission standards scheduled for 1999. That is why we are offering to license the new 4-cycle engine technology, which has already proven successful in the field. Licensing will enable us to recover a portion of our own engine development costs, and it will enable other North American companies to take advantage of the new technology without incurring the substantial expense of a separate new engine development program. We think it is a win-win solution for Ryobi, for the industry, for consumers, and for the environment."

Ryobi North America and its group companies make lawn and garden equipment, power tools, floor care vacuums, sporting goods and automotive die cast products at facilities in Arizona, Indiana, Ohio, and South Carolina. Ryobi employs 4,000 men and women in the U.S. and Canada.

FACT SHEET

Ryobi 4-Cycle Trimmer Engine

Engine Background

The Ryobi Pro4Mor™ OHV 4-Cycle Engine is a technically advanced utility engine. It is the first portable, hand-held gasoline engine capable of meeting all existing, and proposed U.S. exhaust emission standards for lawn and garden equipment, including 1999 California standards. The engine was designed and is manufactured at Ryobi's facilities in Chandler, Arizona. Grass trimmers and other tools powered by the engine are now available at home and garden centers at competitive prices.

The Ryobi 4-Cycle, has proven its reliability through extensive endurance testing and consumer use. Research conducted by Ryobi shows a 98% satisfaction rate among consumers who have purchased and used the 4-cycle trimmer. Independent tests by EPA and Walboro have verified Ryobi emission performance claims for the engine. The engine runs effectively in all positions common to string trimmer use.

Engine Specifications

- C Displacement -- 26.2 cc
- C Bore x Stroke -- 32 mm x 32.6 mm
- C Power -- Up to 1 brake/horsepower at 7000 rpm
- C Configuration -- Overhead valve, push rod
- C Rocker Arm Type -- Stamped steel, ball swivel, adjustable
- C Cylinder Bore -- Chrome plated
- C Lubrication -- Splash type
- C Oil Requirements -- Standard 30 weight, 100 cc by volume
- C Fuel Requirements -- Regular unleaded gas, 87 octane
- C Weight -- Under 8 lb.