

## PART 1205—SAFETY STANDARD FOR WALK-BEHIND POWER LAWN MOWERS

### Subpart A—The Standard

Sec.

- 1205.1 Scope of the standard.
- 1205.2 Effective date.
- 1205.3 Definitions.
- 1205.4 Walk-behind rotary power mower protective shields.
- 1205.5 Walk-behind rotary power mower controls.
- 1205.6 Warning labels for reel-type and rotary power mowers.
- 1205.7 Prohibited stockpiling.
- 1205.8 Findings.

### Subpart B—Certification

- 1205.30 Purpose, scope, and application.
- 1205.31 Effective date.
- 1205.32 Definitions.
- 1205.33 Certification testing.
- 1205.34 Recordkeeping requirements.
- 1205.35 Product certification and labeling by manufacturers.
- 1205.36 Product certification and labeling by importers.

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**SOURCE:** 44 FR 10024, Feb. 15, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—The Standard

#### § 1205.1 Scope of the standard.

(a) *General.* This subpart A of part 1205 is a consumer product safety standard which prescribes safety requirements for certain walk-behind power lawn mowers, including labeling and performance requirements. The performance requirements of the standard apply to rotary mowers. The labeling requirements apply to both rotary and reel-type mowers. The standard is intended to reduce the risk of injury to consumers caused by contact, primarily of the foot and hand, with the rotating blade of the mower. A detailed discussion of the risk of injury and of the anticipated costs, benefits, and other factors associated with the standard is contained in §1205.8 *Findings*.

(b) *Scope.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, all walk-behind rotary and reel-type power lawn

mowers manufactured or imported on or after the effective date of the standard are subject to the requirements of this standard if they are “consumer products”. “Walk behind power lawn mower” is defined as a grass cutting machine with a minimum cutting width of 12 in (305 mm) that employs an engine or motor as a power source. Section 3(a)(1) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (“CPSA”), 15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(1), defines the term *consumer product* as an “article, or component part thereof, produced or distributed (i) for sale to a consumer for use in or around a permanent or temporary household or residence, a school, in recreation, or otherwise, or (ii) for the personal use, consumption or enjoyment of a consumer in or around a permanent or temporary household or residence, a school, in recreation, or otherwise.” The term does not include products that are not customarily produced or distributed for sale to, or for the use or consumption by, or enjoyment of, a consumer.

(2) It is unlawful to manufacture for sale, offer for sale, distribute in commerce, or import into the United States any product subject to this standard that is not in conformity with the standard. The Commission is not applying the standard to rental transactions or to the ultimate sale of used rental mowers by rental firms.

(c) *Exclusions*—(1) *General.* Mowers that have all three of the following characteristics are not covered by the standard:

- (i) A cutting width of 30 in (762 mm) or greater,
- (ii) A weight of 200 lb (90.7 kg) or more, and
- (iii) For engine-powered mowers, an engine of 8 horsepower (6 kw) or more.

(2) *Reel-type mowers.* Reel-type power lawn mowers need not meet the performance requirements of the standard but they must be labeled as required by §1205.6.

#### § 1205.2 Effective date.

This standard applies to all rotary walk behind power lawn mowers manufactured after June 30, 1982, except §1205.6 *Warning labels*, applies to rotary and reel-type walk-behind power lawn

### § 1205.3

### 16 CFR Ch. II (1-1-02 Edition)

mowers manufactured after December 31, 1979.

[44 FR 10024, Feb. 15, 1979, as amended 45 FR 86417, Dec. 31, 1980]

#### § 1205.3 Definitions.

(a) As used in this part 1205:

(1) *Blade* means any rigid or semi-rigid device or means that is intended to cut grass during mowing operations and includes all blades of a multi-bladed mower.

(2) *Blade tip circle* means the path described by the outermost point of the blade as it moves about its axis.

(3) *Crack* means a visible external fissure in a solid body caused by tensile, compressive, or shear forces.

(4) *Cutting width* means the blade tip circle diameter or, for a multi-bladed mower, the width, measured perpendicular to the forward direction, of a composite of all blade tip circles.

(5) *Deform* means any visible alteration of shape or dimension of a body caused by stresses induced by external forces.

(6) *Engine* means a power producing device which converts thermal energy from a fuel into mechanical energy.

(7) *Manual starting* means starting the mower engine with power obtained from the physical efforts of the operator.

(8) *Maximum operating speed* means the maximum revolutions per minute (rpm) obtainable by the engine or motor under the conditions of the particular test where the term is used. For an electrically powered mower, it is the speed attained when the mower is energized from a 60 Hz alternating current source that delivers a voltage no greater than 120 V and no less than 115 V at the power input to the mower, with the mower running. For a battery-powered mower, it is the speed attained after the battery has been fully charged in accordance with the mower manufacturer's instructions.

(9) *Motor* means a power producing device that converts electrical energy into mechanical energy.

(10) *Normal starting means* is the primary mechanism intended to be actuated by the operator to start a mower's engine or motor (e.g., the cord mechanism of a manual start engine, the switch of an electric motor, or a power start mechanism).

(11) *Operating control zone* means the space enclosed by a cylinder with a radius of 15 in (381 mm) having a horizontal axis that is (1) perpendicular to the fore-aft centerline of the mower and (2) tangent to the rearmost part of the mower handle, extending 4 in (102 mm) beyond the outermost portion of each side of the handle (See Fig. 1).