Consultation on the proposed revision of the criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of Machines for Parks and Gardens

Nordic Ecolabelling is giving you the opportunity to comment on our proposal for the revised **version 5.0** of the criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of **Machines for Parks and Gardens**. Your comments will play an important role when the revision proposal is considered by the national ecolabelling boards and the Nordic ecolabelling board. We would be grateful if you could submit your written feedback by **3 December 2012**.

The main requirements for ecolabelling of machines for parks and gardens relate to product design, hazardous substances in materials, energy consumption, emissions during operation and noise. The aim is to reduce the environmental impact by promoting park and garden machines that:

- are energy-efficient, with the lowest possible emissions to air of substances that are harmful to health and the environment
- make a smaller contribution to the greenhouse effect and
- cause minimal spread of hazardous substances from materials.

What are the major changes in this revision?

- The requirement regarding evaporative emissions has been clarified and toughened. Limit values for evaporative emissions from hoses and fuel tanks have been introduced.
- The ban on the heavy metals mercury, cadmium, lead and hexavalent chromium, plus the flame retardants PBB and PBDE now covers the whole machine, rather than just the plastic parts.
- The list of banned phthalates has been extended to include DHP, DCHP, DEP and DIHP, all of which have been identified as Substances of Very High Concern.
- A ban has also been introduced for the flame retardants Tetrabrombisphenol -A, HBCDD and TCEP, as well as high chlorinated short chain and medium chain chloroparaffins.
- Two new basic requirements have been introduced concerning battery quality, performance and safety. A new battery requirement has been introduced to regulate the highest permitted content of heavy metals in batteries.
- The requirement for a specific engine test to verify Nordic Ecolabelling's emissions requirement has been deleted. Instead, we accept the statutory emission test that is carried out for type approval of engines for the European market as approved verification of emissions.
- The limits for emissions to air from combustion engines have been toughened.
- The classification of engines according to size/cylinder volume has been harmonised with the related EU Directive (97/68/EC).
- The requirement for maximum permitted petrol consumption for lawnmowers has been toughened.

- The requirement regarding carcinogens has been deleted. The vibration requirement has also been deleted.
- The noise requirement has been reviewed. Noise levels for lawnmowers for private use remain unchanged, while lawnmowers for professional use have had their noise requirements eased slightly.

The criteria and background document can be downloaded from the following address:
http://www.svanemerket.no/aktuelt/miljokrav/hagemaskiner/

If you have problems downloading the documents or you do not have access to the internet, please contact me and I will send you the documents either in paper form or by e-mail.

Who can submit responses to this consultation?

Any people, companies and institutions that are interested in helping to develop the ecolabelling criteria for **machines for parks and gardens** are invited to submit comments on the proposed criteria. Please pass on information about the consultation to those who might be affected by the proposals.

How can responses be submitted?

Please submit your responses via the websites, by e-mail or by post. Send your responses to:

E-mail: or@svanemerket.no
Post: Ecolabelling Norway, Tordenskioldsgt 6B, NO- 0160 Oslo, Norway
Fax: +47 24 14 46 21

We look forward to receiving your comments by **3 December 2012**.

Regards
Nordic Ecolabelling

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