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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Department

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: July 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Premixed Two-Cycle Fuel Mix

This memorandum is a reminder to fire departments concerning the sale of premixed two-cycle fuel (gas and oil) for use in yard equipment.

A number of retail and hardware stores are selling this product, which is a Class 1 flammable liquid, for use in yard equipment with two-cycle engines. The product is sold in a 32 oz, re-sealable cans and contains a specially formulated synthetic oil, 90+ octane gasoline and fuel stabilizer, pre-mixed to a 40:1 ratio. The label indicates that the fuel stabilizer keeps the gas fresh up to two years after can has been opened.

Retail stores selling flammable and combustible liquids must have a permit from the local fire department (527CMR 14).

Retail stores equipped with sprinkler systems must have them reviewed by their own licensed sprinkler contractor, or fire protection engineer in accordance with NFPA Standard 25 2002 Edition, to insure the hazard is adequately protected.

Although this is a mixture of gas and oil, we must not lose focus on the fact that it must be treated in accordance with the appropriate flammable liquid classification. This product is no different than any other Class 1 liquid. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) will provide information to determine which type of Class 1 product it is: Class 1A, 1B, or 1C. This information must be reviewed against 527 CMR 14.03.

The following sections of 527 CMR 14 should be reviewed prior to issuing a permit for storage:

- 527 CMR 14.03(15)-regarding container design, construction and capacity.
- 527 CMR 14.03(17)-regarding means of egress.
- 527 CMR 14.03(180(e) and NFPA 30-2000 edition, section 4.5.6 – regarding mercantile establishments.

If you have any please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in Western MA at 413-587-3181.