

APPENDIX

EXHIBIT 1

FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications are descriptions of the technical performance requirements for materials or products to be used by the Government. They specify the minimum requirements for quality and construction of materials and equipment necessary for an acceptable product.

Development of specifications often involves extensive research and testing. The following is a collection of abstracts of Federal specifications prepared by the Federal Supply Service, General Services Administration (GSA). This representative sample was selected from a list of over 900 GSA consumer-type products on which specifications have been developed.

Information has been abstracted from each specification which was thought by the committee staff to be useful to the consumer in his selection of similar products in the marketplace.

The original specifications too voluminous for reprinting are being held in committee.

Federal Specification—00-M-00681c, Mowers; Lawn, Power

1. SCOPE AND CLASSIFICATION.

1.1. *Scope.*—This specification covers lawnmowers with gasoline-engine power-driven cutting devices, which are self-propelled, also rotary flat-knife type which are hand pushed.

3. REQUIREMENTS.

3.2. *Material.*—Materials used in the construction of lawnmowers, gang cutting units and attachment units, shall be of the highest grade. Castings shall be smooth and free from blowholes, pits, foreign material, or other defects.

3.3.2. *Guards.*—Effective guards shall be provided to overcome hazards created by reciprocating, rotating, or moving parts such as chains, belts, sprockets, gears, etc., that are exposed to contact by the operator or others.

3.4.2. *Operation on level grounds.*—All self-propelled lawnmowers shall be capable of continuous cutting at a speed of 3 miles per hour on firm and fairly level grounds or lawns. [This requirement might seem unnecessary when relating it to consumer needs, but it might be worthwhile if a buyer wants to know if the mower can maintain a steady speed or if he would have to keep giving it more gas at intervals to maintain this desired speed.]

3.4.4. *Adjustable operating speeds.*—The cutting speed of self-propelled mowers on level lawn and on grades shall be readily varied over a range of speeds which shall include 2 miles per hour. There shall be multiple ground travel speeds at a constant engine RPM. The relation of cutter blade speed and engine speed shall be constant. All cutting speeds specified herein, and any additional speeds at which the mower may be designed to operate continuously, shall be controlled either by a throttle, an automatic or manually adjustable speed governor, gear-shift transmission or a combination thereof.

3.5. *Balance.*—Lawnmowers shall not tip over of their own accord when placed in either direction of travel across a 30-degree slope.

3.6. *Engine.*—Engines shall be so mounted that the air passages of the cooling system will not become clogged with cut grass or clippings thrown by the cutting device. The engine shall not stall, excessively overheat, or unduly smoke.

3.6.1. *Fuel system.*—Exhaust shall be directed to the right or left, away from the operator.

3.8. *Controls.*—Handle-grip controls and lever controls shall be positive in action and shall remain locked or fixed in any required position under all operating and handling conditions of the mower.