ENGINE MANUFACTURERS URGE EPA TO MAKE NATIONWIDE AVAILABILITY OF ULTRA LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL A TOP PRIORITY

ANN ARBOR, MI, August 29, 2001. The Engine Manufacturers Association(EMA) indicated that the nationwide availability of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel must be a top priority for EPA. Speaking at an EPA public workshop on diesel fuel characteristics and emissions, EMA spokesperson Lisa Stegink indicated that engine manufacturers need a nationwide diesel fuel sulfur cap of 15 ppm to meet upcoming onroad diesel engine emissions standards. "EMA supports a nationwide, harmonized on-highway diesel fuel with no phase-in and believes that boutique fuels must be avoided," said Ms Stegink. "Ultra low sulfur diesel is needed to enable aftertreatment technologies and to allow-pull ahead of clean diesel technology, and we need it to be available no later than June 2006."

EMA also indicated that manufacturers need EPA's decision on the future of the nonroad engine program and the level of sulfur in nonroad fuels immediately. Citing the links among nonroad fuels, technology and standards, EMA told the audience that the already adopted Tier 3 nonroad standards require a change from the current 3300 ppm average sulfur content of non-road diesel fuel. Further, any use of on-highway-like technologies to meet future nonroad emissions standards will require the use of 15 ppm or less fuel.

"Other changes in fuel parameters such as cetane or aromatic content are helpful in reducing emissions, but such changes should be implemented consistently across the country to avoid creation of boutique fuel markets and should not slow the nationwide introduction of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel," she said.

The Engine Manufacturers Association is a trade association representing worldwide manufacturers of internal combustion engines used in applications such as trucks and buses, farm and construction equipment, locomotives, marine vessels, and lawn, garden and utility equipment. EMA works with government and industry stakeholders to help the nation achieve its goals of cleaner fuels, more efficient engines and cleaner air.