

NO LEAD GASOLINE/ ALCOHOL BLENDS

In the summer of 1985 a service bulletin (copy attached) was issued on the effects of no-lead gasolines and gasolines containing alcohols.

Any gasolines containing alcohol which remained in the fuel tank during storage of the boat and motor may cause operational problems or malfunction of the engine the first time used this season.

Alcohol containing fuels will absorb moisture from the air. At first, this moisture will remain in solution, but once the water content of the fuel has built up to about one-half of one percent, it will separate out, (phase separation) bringing the alcohol with it. This alcohol-water mixture settles to the bottom of the fuel tank and if this mixture gets into the engine, engines can be seriously damaged internally, as it may wash the protective film of oil off the bore of any cylinder that it enters. Before the engine can be restarted, it is necessary to remove the separated alcohol and water layer, flush out the fuel system with clean fuel and remove and dry the spark plugs.

Corrosion of metals may result from use of gasoline/alcohol blends. Portable or permanently installed fuel tanks of metal or fiberglass, fuel filters, fuel lines and float bowls may be affected by alcohol blended fuels. Many fiberglass fuel tanks are slowly dissolved by alcohol, leading immediately to filter and carburetor plugging and eventually to fuel tank failure.

Any outboard, marine inboard or stern drive engine you service should have the fuel system components checked.

▲WARNING

FUEL LEAKAGE FROM ANY PART OF THE FUEL SYSTEM CAN BE A FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD WHICH CAN CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH. CAREFUL PERIODIC INSPECTION OF THE ENTIRE FUEL SYSTEM IS MANDATORY, PARTICULARLY AFTER STORAGE. ALL FUEL COMPONENTS INCLUDING FUEL TANKS, WHETHER PLASTIC, METAL OR FIBERGLASS, FUEL LINES, PRIMER BULBS, FITTINGS, FUEL FILTERS AND CARBURETORS SHOULD BE INSPECTED FOR LEAKAGE, SOFTENING, HARDENING, SWELLING OR CORROSION. ANY SIGN OF LEAKAGE OR DETERIORATION NECESSITATES REPLACEMENT BEFORE FURTHER ENGINE OPERATION.

Because of the possible adverse effects of alcohol in gasoline, it is recommended that only alcohol free gasoline be used where possible. If only alcohol containing fuel is available, or if the presence of alcohol is unknown, then increased inspection frequency for leaks and abnormalities is required.