

# American National Standard

*for Outdoor Power Equipment –  
Grass Trimmers and  
Brushcutters –  
Safety Requirements*

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**ANSI**<sup>®</sup>  
**B175.3-2003**  
Revision of  
ANSI B175.3-1997

American National Standard  
for Outdoor Power Equipment –  
Grass Trimmers and Brushcutters –  
Safety Requirements

Secretariat

**Outdoor Power Equipment Institute**

Approved July 9, 2003

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

# American National Standard

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**Foreword** (This foreword is not part of American National Standard ANSI B175.3-2003.)

This standard is the first revision of *American National Standard Grass Trimmers and Brushcutters*, ANSI B175.3-1997. The first edition of this standard was developed under the auspice of the Portable Power Equipment Manufacturers Association (PPEMA) and published in 1997.

In 2002, PPEMA discontinued operations and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) became the secretariat for this standard since some OPEI member companies manufacture grass trimmers and brushcutters. The present revision of this standard was prepared by the ANSI B175.3 Committee on Trimmers and Brushcutters as part of OPEI's continuing work on standards.

A summary of the principal changes included in this revision is as follows:

- "Convertible unit" in the Scope was clarified.
- The definition for Operator/Cutting Position was modified to account for the possibility of the operator being on the opposite side of the machine depicted in Figure 1.
- Section 6.1, Engine Stopping Device, was modified to include requirements for both blade capable and non-blade capable units.
- Section 7.1, Cutting Attachment Retention, was updated.
- A new section, Section 8, Product Integrity, was added.
- Section 10.3, Vibration Test Conditions, was changed to require the manufacture to test the unit with the cutting attachment that the manufacturer determines will create the highest vibration level.
- Section 13.1.2 (distance between the two handles) was modified and now includes a requirement for on-product labeling if the distance is adjustable to less than ten (10) inches.
- Section 13.2, Barrier(s) and Restrictive Harness(es), was modified to state "a barrier between the operator and cutting attachment...", whereas in the prior version the barrier location was implied.
- Figures 1 and 2 were updated.

Consensus for this standard was achieved by use of the Canvass Method.

There are two annexes in this standard. Annexes A and B are informative and are not considered part of this standard.

Suggestions for improvements to this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, 341 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

The following organizations recognized as having an interest in the standardization of safety requirements for trimmers and brushcutters were contacted prior to the approval of this revised standard. Inclusion in the list does not necessarily imply that the organization concurred with the submittal of the proposal to ANSI.

American Society of Agricultural Engineers  
Capro, Inc.  
Echo, Inc.  
North American Equipment Dealers Association  
Piedmont Technical Associates, Inc.  
Power Tool Institute  
Solo, Inc.  
Southland Engineering Systems  
Stihl, Inc.  
Texas Tech University  
US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
US Testing Company, Inc.  
Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

American National Standard  
for Outdoor Power Equipment –

# Grass Trimmers and Brushcutters – Safety Requirements

## 1. Scope and Purpose

### 1.1 Scope

The requirements of this Standard<sup>1</sup> apply to:

- a) portable hand-supported gasoline powered grass trimmers<sup>2</sup> intended for use with flexible nonmetallic line, or other types of nonmetallic cutting attachments, and
- b) portable, hand-supported, gasoline-powered brushcutters intended for use with cutting blades and other cutting attachments.

NOTE - If a grass trimmer is marketed by the manufacturer as convertible to a brushcutter, then the converted unit shall comply with requirements for brushcutters and vice-versa.

A convertible unit may be marketed as a grass trimmer or a brushcutter without including the devices required for conversion in the packaging, provided the operator manual clearly addresses the need to acquire and use the required conversion devices and the manufacturer makes such devices available as optional equipment.

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum manufacturer requirements to reduce the risk of injury associated with the use of portable, hand-supported, gasoline-powered grass trimmers and brushcutters.

## 2 Normative References

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this American National Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this American National Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below.

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<sup>1)</sup> Metric conversions are shown in brackets and are included for information only.

<sup>2)</sup> Trimmers and Brushcutters with back mounted power units are not covered by this standard.