



Service Bulletin

Date: October 29, 2011

Service Bulletin # # GSBS-04

To: All Owners of Gilson Units

Subject: Ethanol Fuel Blends

Machine Style: All models

In most markets owners are limited to Ethanol blended gasoline fuel. This fuel has been shown to have some definite effects on engines and certain precautions should be exercised for good performance and engine safety.

Ethanol fuels burn differently which can change the tune of your engine. When running these fuels for the 1st time a resetting of the high speed jet will probably be required.

Modern fuels especial blends have lower storage lives. **To prevent problems a fuel stabilizer should be used.** [Sta-Bil](#) sells an additive designed especially for Ethanol blend fuels. It is an orange product marked ETHANOL. If this product is not available the MARINE gasoline formula works well.

A good practice is to use stabilizer year round in your power equipment fuel tank. That way you will always have peak performance and protection from the water that Ethanol attracts. I add it to my can before heading to the filling station. That way it comes home fully blended.

These fuels have also changed storage behavior for many owners. For many years the practice of storing engines with fuel was common. Ethanol blend fuels and the water they attract can do real damage to cast aluminum carburetor bodies. I now siphon the tank empty and then run the engine until it stalls.

If your engine is stored with Ethanol blend fuels you may find that it will not start the following season. I have had good luck flushing the Flo-Jet carburetors found on common 6, 7 and 8 HP B&S engines as follows; 1) Drain fuel tank. 2) Put some fresh stabilized fuel in the tank. 3) Remove the high speed needle assembly, this is the needle valve that is diagonal on the carburetor bowl. Use a 7/16 wrench to remove the body nut and needle as an assembly. 4) Let a few ounces of fuel flow from the carburetor and replace the needle assembly. 5) With a little luck the engine will start and as it warms you can tweak the needle if need be for robust running. If you get lost try gently seating the valve and backing it open 1-1/2 turns.