



1901 North Moore Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 522-6778
(703) 522-0548 fax
www.pelletheat.org

CONTACT:

Carrie Annand

annand@pelletheat.org

[\(202\) 494-2493](tel:(202)494-2493)

Pellet Fuels Institute Statement on EPA's New Source Performance Standards Rule

Arlington, VA, Feb. 5, 2015 – The Pellet Fuels Institute (PFI) today issued a statement on the new Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) Rule. The rule, released yesterday and intended to limit emissions from residential heating appliances, establishes emissions targets for wood pellet appliances such as stoves and central heating systems.

The NSPS rule requires any new non-commercial wood burning appliances to utilize fuel that has been graded as part of a licensing agreement with an EPA-approved organization, such as the Pellet Fuels Institute. For appliances such as pellet stoves, manufacturers will be required to state such claims in the owner's manuals.

Rather than designating one fuel standards program for the industry, the NSPS rule as written allows pellet manufacturers to choose among three programs, including the Pellet Fuels Institute Standards Program. Of the available options, the PFI standard is the only standard that has been developed over many years here in the United States – with input from the EPA – to specifically serve North American pellet fuel manufacturers by requiring ongoing, timely testing intended to best protect consumers in the United States.

No similar standards program exists that incorporates the same sufficient testing and specifications to ensure that pellet burning appliances operate efficiently and in a manner consistent with the goals of the NSPS rule, or provides consumers with the assurances that the product they purchase matches manufacturers' claims.

In response to the rule's release, Jennifer Hedrick, PFI's executive director, stated:

"PFI has significant concerns that the current EPA language – allowing for U.S. pellet producers to choose among multiple standards programs – will cause more confusion than clarity among manufacturers, retailers and consumers as they try to grasp what the different programs and fuel standards mean.

"We are surprised that EPA did not choose the PFI Standards Program as the sole program for U.S. pellet manufacturers, despite the fact that the Pellet Fuels Institute has maintained a fuel standard for over ten years and strengthened its testing requirements in more recent years at the specific directive of EPA.

“We are particularly disappointed and troubled that EPA has changed course and will now allow standards that do not incorporate the very components, such as routine testing, that EPA publicly stated were essential requirements of any fuel standard to be included in the NSPS rule.”

The Pellet Fuels Institute (PFI) is a North American trade association based in Arlington, Virginia, that represents a range of contributors to the pellet industry, including companies that manufacture wood pellets and pellet manufacturing equipment, or provide other products and services to the densified biomass industry at large. To learn more about PFI and its standards program, please visit www.pelletheat.org.