

## **CPSC'S Proposed Safety Standards For Portable Generators Rule**

On November 21, 2016 the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published a proposed rule titled: *Safety Standard for Portable Generators*. The CPSC's proposed rule establishes CO emissions rates for portable generators in an effort to reduce the risk of unreasonable injury or death from use of the device in an indoor or confined space. The CPSC performed an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) in which it concluded that the proposed rule would have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

On April 24, 2017 the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter urging the CPSC to consider significant alternatives to the proposed rule. The letter to the CPSC may be accessed at: <http://sba.gov/advocacy>.

- The CPSC identified 20 domestic manufacturers of portable generators, of which 13 are considered small businesses. For 9 of the small businesses identified, portable generator manufacturing accounts for a significant portion of the firm's total sales.
- The proposed rule establishes performance standards that limit the rate of CO emissions in portable generators in an effort to reduce the risk of injury or death from CO inhalation. The standards are based on the generator's weighted CO emissions rate in terms of grams/hour (g/hr). Specifically the standards include the following: Class I engines: No more than 75 g/hr weighted rate; Class II engines with a single cylinder: No more than 150 g/hr weighted rate; Class II engines with twin cylinders: No more than 300 g/hr weighted rate.
- Advocacy spoke with small businesses who indicated that the proposed rule will have a significant impact on their business. Specifically, one manufacturer stated that the proposed rule has the potential to eliminate the portable generator manufacturing sector from his business entirely. Another stated that the current effective date of one year is simply not a feasible amount of time in which to comply.
- Advocacy urged the CPSC to consider significant alternatives to reduce the burden to small businesses including extended compliance deadlines, less stringent CO emissions limits, and an automatic shut off option.
- For more information visit Advocacy's web page at [www.sba.gov/advocacy](http://www.sba.gov/advocacy), or contact Prianka Sharma at (202) 205-6938.