

# **PROHIBITION *against* AMMUNITION *containing* LEAD?**

After many years of consideration the Swedish government has decided to forbid the use and sale of ammunition that containing lead. This prohibition will have the following effects:

- From July 1 2002 ammunition that contains lead shot must not be used when shooting or hunting on wetlands;
- From January 1 2006 ammunition that contains lead shot must not be used for any form of hunting, or sold or transferred professionally; and
- From January 1 2008 bullet ammunition that contains lead must not be used when hunting or shooting.

There are several exceptions to the prohibitions. Among other things, bullet ammunition that contains lead may be used at shooting ranges when the ammunition is gathered in environmental target butts or will be taken care of in some other acceptable manner. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency may grant exemptions from the ammunition prohibition when there are no acceptable lead-free alternatives. The prohibition against sale and transfer does not apply to exports from Sweden.

## **New Requirements for Running Cold Engines**

By amending the Ordinance on Exhaust Emission (2001:1085), the Swedish government has imposed requirements in respect of discharges when running cold engines (so-called “cold-starting requirements”) for all petrol-powered passenger cars and lightweight trucks. Before the amendment these requirements only applied to certain petrol-powered passenger cars. The requirements will apply from January 1 2003. The amendment is made in order to conform to EU Directive 2001/100.

## **Exemptions from Landfill Requirements**

Pursuant to the Ordinance on the Landfill of Waste (2001:512) landfills must fulfil certain requirements, including those relating to:

- geological barriers;
- bottom-sealing system; and
- systems for collection of water leachate.

The requirements are designed to limit the effect of landfills on human health and the environment. Exemptions may only be granted should there be no risks to human health or the environment. The exemption clause corresponds to the exemption possibilities given in the EU Landfill Directive (99/31), which is implemented through the ordinance.

Although there are limited possibilities for granting exemptions from the listed requirements, exemptions have nonetheless been granted in a number of court cases. Two cases concerned permits for continued landfilling at an existing site. In the first case the Environmental Court found that an exemption could be granted from the geological barrier requirement on the ground that the relevant landfill was already established and that it would be inconvenient to dig in the landfill in order to complete the bottom sealing. In the second case the Environmental Court found that

exemption could be granted from the requirement to introduce a bottom-sealing system and drain material layers without risking damage to human health or the environment, provided that a gradual surface sealing was made. The court observed that the landfill was constructed in accordance with the existing permit and that the flow of leachate water at the landfill was expected to be very small.

## **Other Matters**

### *The Climate Bill*

The Swedish Parliament has passed Government Bill 2001/02:55 concerning climate change. Although the bill contains no legislative proposals it will have an impact on Swedish environmental law in the future.

Sweden has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 4 % by 2010 compared to the 1990 level. This goal is to be attained without using carbon sinks or flexible mechanisms. In 2004 the government will consider a goal where account is taken of the possible use of flexible mechanisms. The Kyoto Protocol and the EU Burden Sharing Agreement allow for an increase of emissions by 4 % during the same period of time with the use of carbon sinks and flexible mechanisms. The measures proposed in the bill include:

information campaigns;

the promotion of alternative fuels in the transport sector; and

the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources through green certificates trading.

However, these measures have not been put in concrete form through any statutory proposals.

### *The Kyoto Protocol*

The Swedish government has decided to ratify the Kyoto protocol, the global climate agreement.

### *The Stockholm Convention*

The Swedish government has decided to ratify the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants. The convention is designed to prevent detrimental effects from long-lived organic pollutants on human health and the environment by prohibiting, phasing out or limiting the use and production of pollutants and minimizing the emission of unintentional byproducts. The convention initially includes 12 poisonous chemicals. All 12 chemicals are already prohibited or strictly regulated in Sweden, and it is considered that only small complementary additions must be made to Swedish legislation in order to implement the convention.

### *The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling*

#### *Systems on Ships*

The government has decided to sign the Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships. The convention is globally binding and shall, among other things, regulate hazardous organic tin compounds found in the bottom paint of certain ships. Prohibitions against ship painting, irrespective of the length of the ship, will come into force on January 1 2003. From January 1 2008, hulls must not be painted with paint that contains organic tin compounds. The prohibition means that the paint must be removed or the hull repainted with a sealant that seals in the prohibited paint. According to information from the Ministry of the Environment, the convention will be ratified in Spring 2003.

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*Report of the Environmental Code Committee*

The Environmental Code Committee will submit a report to the minister of the environment on June 28 2002. The report will contain proposals for amendments to the Environmental Code with reference to permits for water activity and infrastructure projects, and also amendments of the sanction system.

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