



912, 350 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON, K1R 7S8
Ph: 613-233-9954

www.ggc-pgc.ca

For Immediate Release:

Canadian farmers and equipment industry successfully push for transition to new combines

(Tuesday, November 22nd, 2011) – The Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) are pleased to see the details released last week on Environment Canada’s temporary import standards for “Tier 4 flexibility” diesel engines. The approval by Cabinet of new temporary standards to fill a gap in the regulations resulting from regulations set to expire on November 29th, 2011 prevented a situation which would have disrupted the importation of combines into Canada during a critical time of year for equipment delivery.

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“With a potential gap between the old import rules and the new diesel engine regulations taking effect on January 16th, 2012, there was an immediate need to have temporary standards in place so that grain growers could take delivery of equipment before year-end,” said Richard Phillips, Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada. “The temporary import standards will be critical in helping equipment manufacturers import into Canada the combines and tractors that growers had placed orders for delivery in December.”

“We are certainly pleased that the Canadian government moved forward with a clear set of rules during the transition period,” said Russell Fowler, President and CEO of Krone NA Inc. and 2012 AEM Chair. “The temporary standard will allow combines and tractors equipped with transition engines to be shipped during an important market period without any market uncertainty or import delays. Manufacturers and dealers understand the importance of the December delivery period for Canadian farmers and grain growers.”

The temporary standards are part of the “Regulations amending the off-road compression-ignition engine regulations” which govern exhaust emissions created by the diesel engines used to power tractors and combines, as well as other off-road construction and forestry equipment. Environment Canada has been working with industry stakeholders to ensure that the regulations are consistent with those of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The Grain Growers of Canada represent tens of thousands of successful wheat, oat, barley, corn, canola, pea, lentil, rye and triticale farmers from across Canada. AEM is the North American-based international trade group providing innovative business development resources to advance the off-road equipment manufacturing industry in the global marketplace. AEM membership comprises more than 860 companies and 200-plus product lines in the agriculture, construction, forestry, mining and utility sectors worldwide. GGC and AEM worked collaboratively with the government to help ensure a timely resolution.

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For more information:

Richard Phillips, GGC Executive Director – 613-875-1795

Howard Mains, AEM Canada – 613-566-4568