Slips
• Where boat slips are provided, the guidelines require at least 3 percent of the slips, but not less than one slip total, comply with accessibility requirements. The new regulations provide a chart listing the number of slips required by total marina size.

Persons with disabilities should have access to different types of boat slips; however, the slips may be clustered in the same area.

Swimming Pools, Pool Entry, and Exit
• Swimming pools must have at least two means of entry and exit. A sloped entry or lift must be the primary means of access for swimmers requiring access accommodations. The secondary access may duplicate the primary means of access and may include transfer walls, transfer systems, or stairs.
• Swimming pools with less than 300 linear feet of swimming pool wall may (as an exception) have only one means of access, but that means of access must be either a lift or sloped entry.

Shooting Ranges
• Shooting facilities: Where fixed firing positions are provided at a site, at least 5 percent, but not less than one of each type of firing position must be accessible.
• Fixed firing positions: Fixed firing positions must contain a 60-inch-diameter space and have a slope no steeper than 1:48.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element. According to a recent e-mail from Dr. Brian Unruh of the UF/IFAS West Florida REC in Milton, Dow Agro Science’s two-year wait has ended as the United States EPA has granted a 24C label for the soil fumigant Curfew. After being limited to applying Curfew to only 5,000 acres per year for the past two years under an experimental use permit, Dow will now be able to take orders for treatment of more fairway acreage.

Current News & Issues...
Curfew Granted 24C Label
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Editor’s Note: This is a condensation of the some of the major points affecting golf courses and recreational facilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act - What you need to know’ will be the subject of the GCSAA “Current Issues in Golf” program at the Atlanta Conference and Show on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

On the Web
The complete long version of the Federal ADA document can be viewed at the GCSAA website by registered GCSAA members only. Go to www.gcsaa.org. Select Government Relations and follow the links.

Arsenic can be our number-one concern, but as in any regulatory action, science should play the major part in determining the facts of risk and exposure. The arsenic is known to the general public as a poison and recently was the focus of a controversy concerning the treated-lumber industry. While no medical evidence showed a real health concern, the public perception of arsenic and the political nature of the issue forced the industry to change to a different preservative. The same situation is very possible for turf applications of arsenical herbicides.

Superintendents should take a serious look at their weed-control programs and determine what role MSMA plays in the conditioning of the course. We may be forced to reduce or eliminate the use of MSMA entirely. A cost analysis should be done to include pre-emergent weed control products and other more expensive, but effective post-emergent products.

See the related article on MSMA by Dr. Phil Busey in this section. Dr. Busey gives a detailed account of the history of MSMA use in two excerpts from his e-newsletter, “Turfgrass Management.” The complexity of the issue is evident from the commentary in the article.

Water Restrictions - The New Way Of Life
It is probably safe to say the drought in Florida is over. Polk County posted a new total annual rainfall record set in 1948; the new record for 2002 is 72 inches. Regardless of lake levels returning to near normal and more frequent rains helping with turf irrigation, the growth and development of Florida rushes on and that prospect has water-management districts for the most part, keeping watering restrictions in place.

Out of necessity there has been increased cooperation between the golf industry and the water management districts, but the five water-management bodies still approach their sovereignty with their own particular viewpoints and must be dealt with independently.

At the last check South Florida, Suwannee and Northwest Florida districts had no watering restrictions. Southwest Florida still has two-day-per-week restrictions in general, but has acknowledged golf courses’ need for flexibility in turf management and has relaxed scheduling constraints, but cautions users and permit holders to stay within permitted amounts and follow best management and conservation practices.

The St. Johns River district is still on twice-per-week watering with the usual prescribed exceptions for hand-watering hotspots, overseeding, frost and wilt protection and new turf establishment.

The bottom line is we need to continue our involvement with the various districts so we know they are trying to do the best we can in managing water resources for golf which is a major contributor to the state’s economy.

Compiled by Joel Jackson, CGCS