

cal exceptions are provided to this requirement.

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 can 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.

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.

Current News & Issues...

Curfew Granted 24C Label

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.

Curfew, a soil fumigant, has been used in agriculture for years. Two years ago, Dow conducted test applications on several Florida golf courses in cooperation with the Florida DEP. The state signed off on the use of Curfew for nematode control on golf course fairways, but the U.S. EPA was not able to come to a decision within the mandated 90-day review period and the decision-making process has dragged on for two years. Dow enlisted the aid of superintendents to write their legislators about the importance of this product as a potential alternative to Nema-cur, which is being phased out after the federal agency seemed to ignore the state of Florida's acceptance of the product's use on golf courses.

Those courses that were able to book fairway treatments the last two years reported excellent results and turf response especially during the tough drought-induced growing conditions.

Arsenical Herbicides Under Review

Herbicides containing arsenic compounds are the subject of a statewide task force in Florida. The action is the result of the arsenic levels found in soil and water samples taken from golf courses in South Florida. The issue was moved to the front burner when land sales transactions were put in limbo as the arsenic levels found in samples during routine environmental audits were found to exceed health-concern levels.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element and can be found in most any soil and water sample in Florida, which complicates the regulatory process. In fact natural background levels can exceed the regulatory level being proposed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Right now, applying arsenical herbicides is an obvious, easy target source of arsenic being added to the environment. But, arsenic is also found in fertilizers (it combines readily with phosphorus), bio-solids, mulch, native soil and fill dirt, native limestone marl and rock formations, and waste water. Determining the source of the arsenic in a sample is nearly impossible. When the sample is processed, the elemental arsenic remains with all the attached molecules having been removed in the process.

Stakeholders will meet in Tallahassee in late January to discuss the use of arsenical herbicides. An informal survey of courses concerning the current use patterns of the commonly used grassy weed herbicide, Monosodium methanearsonate (MSMA) revealed the modern trend of spot treatment versus wall-to-wall spraying common 20-30 years ago. With the advent of best management practices, and integrated pest management principles, and new chemistry - the overall use of MSMA has declined considerably. Tropical signalgrass is cited as the weed still requiring use of MSMA for good control. Other products including pre-emergent herbicides are available as alternatives to using MSMA to control the goosegrass, crabgrass and the various sedges.

Protecting the environment should 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 and environmental harm. 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 they know we 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