

Head protection pushed in Minnesota; rolling out the grass carp-et in California

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According to a letter circulated to superintendents and other turf groups in Minnesota, the state OSHA plans to redouble its efforts with regard to head protection and roll-bar enforcement:

"Rollover protection and seat belts are required on all motorized, self-propelled vehicles and mowers that are equipped with a 20 horsepower motor and abov," reads S. 182.653, Sub. 2. "Four-wheeled vehicles and mowers operating on flat terrain only will be exempt. Threewheeled vehicles have no exemption.

"Any employee exposed to flying objects or subjected to possible injury by flying objects needs to wear head protection (such as a hard hat). Employers are required to provide this head protection for their employees."

The letter also makes it clear that golf courses are a primary focus of the two enforcement initiatives.

Meanwhile, superintendents in California are leading efforts to legalize the use of grass carp as an aquatic

weed control method on Golden State courses. The California GCSA successfully pushed for introduction of SB 157, which would make it legal to introduce white amur, commonly known as the grass carp, into golf course ponds and lakes. Use of the fish in impoundments that feed into the Sacramento or San Joaquin riv-

ers would be delayed until 2001, assuming no harm comes from use of the white amur in other areas before that time.

Also in California, hovering mower distributors received an emissions setback from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), whose written directive denies a

triploid (sterile) species of request that hovering mowers be exempted as a hand-held, two-stroke device. CARB spokesman Jerry Martin indicated the Flymo was not a "true necessity" for golf courses because of the availability of string trimmers.

> Also, Kawasaki USA's Engine Division has announced the receipt of certification by CARB for its FB460V engine, bringing the total number of Kawasaki engine models certified to meet the emissions requirements to 12. The Kawasaki FB460V, a 12.5horsepower, four-stroke vertical shaft engine, has been certified under the rigid California standards, which are expected to be adopted nationwide in the future.

DowElanco settles

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were concerned to learn that we had not met agency expectations in the case at hand. We have made a careful evaluation of the reporting process by which we provide information to EPA and have committed additional resources in order to avoid a repetition of these issues in the fu-

According to EPA, DowElanco reported 249 incidents to EPA after the 30-day time period specified in EPA guidance. EPA's review of these incidents indicated DowElanco had not been reporting adverse effects incidents that it learned of through personal injury claims and lawsuits. After EPA sent DowElanco a "show cause" letter, the company submitted information on additional incidents.

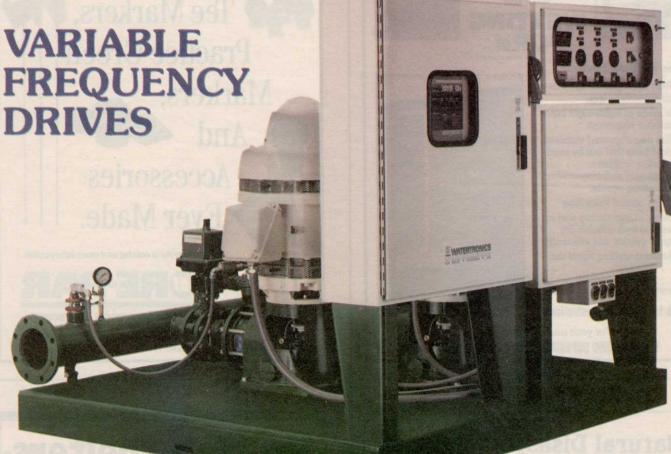
The bulk of the information arose from personal injury claims filed against DowElanco relating to chlorpyrifos. Reported adverse effects, which span about a decade, included cases of alleged peripheral neuropathy and other chronic neurological effects. Peripheral neuropathy involves the nerves of the arms and legs.

"EPA asserts," the company statement continues, "that DowElanco was late in submitting reports providing notice of allegations drawn from its claims and litigation files. DowElanco voluntarily disclosed allegations from these files and has cooperated fully in providing information in response to EPA requests. This information has been provided even though it is drawn from allegations of individuals seeking compensation and is not regarded by DowElanco as factual information.

"Along with our submission of claims-related allegations, DowElanco also provided the Agency with a safety assessment related to these claims. Based on this assessment, we remain confident of the wide margins of safety that exist for our products under conditions of use."

EPA's Dr. Lynn Goldman noted that the incident reports obtained in this actions are particularly important because EPA is currently reviewing the registration for chlorpyrifos.





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