

New OSHA ergonomic regulations unlikely to affect golf workplace

By ANDREW OVERBECK

WASHINGTON—In an effort to combat musculoskeletal disorders in the American workplace, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued an ergonomics proposal that would require more

than 1.6 million employers to implement a basic ergonomics program.

Under the proposed regulation, once an ergonomics-related injury occurs in the workplace, the company must assign someone to be responsible for ergo-

nomics and rectify current ergonomics problems. The company must also educate its workers on the signs and symptoms of musculoskeletal disorders and set up a system for employees to report signs and symptoms. Under the "quick fix" program, if a company corrects a hazard successfully in 90 days then OSHA requires no further action.

According to OSHA Public

Affairs Specialist Susan Fleming, the regulations will apply mostly to manufacturing and production jobs. "Over 50 percent of musculoskeletal disorders occur in manual handling jobs, and stem from overexertion and repetitive motion," she said. OSHA estimates



that implementing these measures would save companies \$9 billion annually in workers-compensation costs.

The new ergonomics regulations, however, will likely have

no impact on the golf course.

"Golf for the most part, is considered a hybrid between the agriculture and construction-worker standards. This standard does not apply to those categories," said Ron Smith, president of Sports Club Management in Braintree, Mass., who consults businesses on compliance with OSHA and risk-management issues.

However, Smith cautions that golf courses would be wise to keep an eye on the ergonomics proposal as it goes forward. "While this may not directly apply to golf, there are the vague parts that talk about musculoskeletal disorders and those occur in almost every line of work," he said.

Following the public comment period which ends Feb. 1, OSHA will hold a series of public hearings beginning Feb. 22 in Chicago, Washington D.C. and Portland, Ore. OSHA expects to have a final standard developed by the end of 2000 and the regulations could be phased in beginning in 2001.

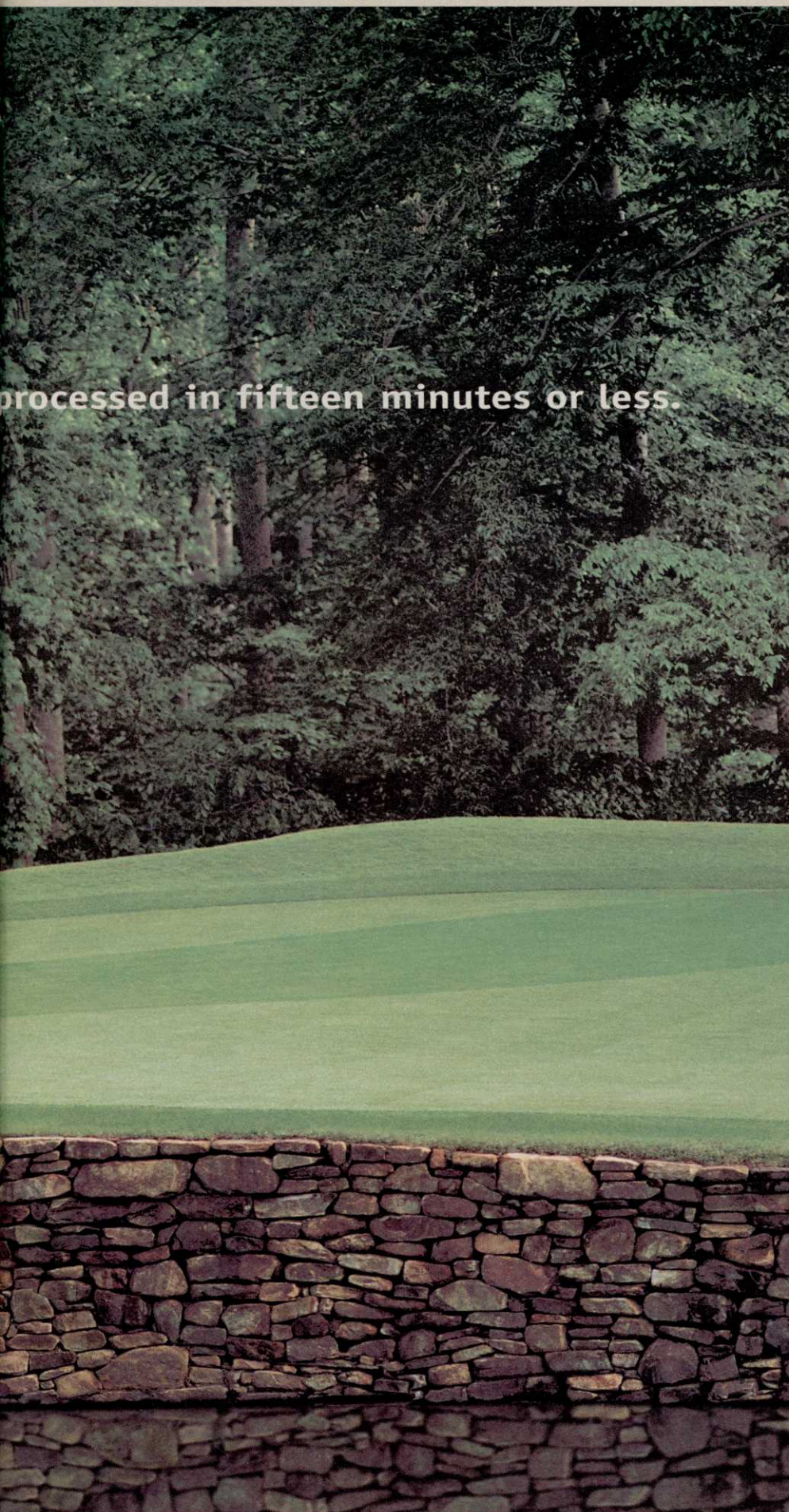
Kitchell picked for Mexican golf course project

PHOENIX—Kitchell Mexico, the Mexican subsidiary of Phoenix-based Kitchell Contractors, has been chosen as the construction manager for Querencia Properties' Golf Community project in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Querencia Properties is developing more than 840 acres of land on the Baja Peninsula; the first phase of the project will include an 18-hole course designed by Tom Fazio, as well as 46 single-family residential lots and 20 villas. Joined by Kitchell's Custom Home division, the Mexico team will be managing all elements of the project, including procurement of local permits, equipment purchasing and importation and subcontract management.

Kitchell, one of the 75 largest construction managers and general contractors in the United States, operates throughout the western United States and Mexico.

Its wholly owned Mexican corporation provides design/build, general contracting, and construction management services from its offices in Phoenix, Guadalajara, Saltillo, and San Jose del Cabo.



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