

News

Injuries, illnesses must be posted

Firms with 11 or more employees are required to post the total count of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in their establishments during 1979. This must be posted during the month of February of this year.

Employers need only post the last page or right hand portion of OSHA Form 200, "Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses" to fulfill the requirement. It must be posted by Feb. 1 in the place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted, and must remain in place until March 1. The form must be posted even if there were no job injuries or illnesses, with zeros on the total lines.

Employers with 10 or fewer employees are exempt from this requirement, as they are from other OSHA recordkeeping rules, unless they are selected by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics for a statistical survey or are subject to certain state recordkeeping regulations. However, all employers are required to report within 48 hours to the nearest OSHA office all accidents which result in one or more fatalities or in hospitalization of five or more employees. OSHA is now considering reducing the reporting time to eight hours.

Container labels regulated in Calif.

California has adopted regulations regarding the labeling of service containers which are containers other than the original labeled one that are used to hold, store or transport pesticides or pesticide dilutions.

The new regulations require that service container labels include the identity of the person responsible for the container, the identity of the pesticide byproduct or common name and concentration, and the signal word which describes the toxicity of the pesticide. In addition, the regulations require that a copy of the registered label be present at each mixing and application site where service containers are used. This regulation is being adopted to implement legislation that went into

effect January 1, 1979.

You can get a copy of the adopted regulation by contacting the Department of Food and Agriculture, Pam Ringhoff, Room A-170, 1220 N St., Sacramento, CA 95814, or telephone 916/322-5032.

Tax credits available for hiring disabled

The Targetee Jobs Tax Credit provides tax credits to private employers for hiring job-ready workers in certain targeted groups. The credit can mean a tax savings totaling as much as 50 percent of wages up to \$6,000 for each eligible employee in the first year of employment. In the second year, the tax credits amount to 25 percent of that amount.

The paperwork for the program is pretty straightforward. An eligible worker is given a voucher informing potential employers that he or she is a member of a "targeted group". When the person is hired, the voucher is endorsed by the employer and returned to the state Employment Security Department. There are no other obligations or restrictions. Employers receive the tax credit directly through the Internal Revenue Service.

Targeted Jobs Tax Credit is a national program available in all states. Information is available from the state Employment Security Department or the local office of the Internal Revenue Service.

Fertilizer transport needs improvement

A U.S. Department of Agriculture task force studying methods to improve commercial transportation in the U.S. has recommended that fertilizer, agricultural limestone and soil conditioners be exempted from the Interstate Commerce Commission's trucking regulations.

The Rural Agricultural Administration Task Force also recommended that states which do not enforce a U.S. rule requiring trucks to weigh 80,000 pounds be pressured to meet this rule and that shippers begin establishing long-term contracts with railroads to carry their goods in the cars.

The task force, made up of private industry and government representatives, came up with 30 recommendations for improving truck and rail transportation. The group's report, which is available

from the transportation department, also suggested the federal government provide long-term guaranteed loans to the railroads to fix their tracks. For trucking companies, it recommended that more information on the prices paid for commodities be made available so that truckers faced with higher gasoline prices could make their trips more profitable.

The Agriculture Department's statistics say that the average cost of fuel for truck owner-operators has jumped from 58.6 cents per mile in 1976 to 92.9 cents per mile last year, and probably much more this year. Railroads will not provide an alternate source of transportation. The availability of rail cars in the Midwest is scarce since they are being used to haul the record crops of grain and cotton.

SE turf conference set for mid-April

The 34th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference will be held in Tifton, Ga., on April 14 and 15th

of this year, according to Glenn Burton, Research Geneticist at the University of Georgia. The program format will be similar to that in previous years with an examination of turf research plots and new machinery on the afternoon of April 14 and a speaker discussion session from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 15.

OMC Lincoln to add new warehouse

OMC Lincoln is building a 102,000-square-foot parts warehouse at its manufacturing complex in Lincoln, Nebraska, according to Division Manager Herbert Jespersen. The addition of the warehouse will allow all in-process parts storage to be consolidated under one roof. The new facility will increase manufacturing capability by freeing approximately 27,000 square feet presently committed to parts storage in its main assembly plant, and by opening up assembly capability in other buildings at the complex.

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