



# Government News / Business

The Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) is beginning to flex its muscles in areas other than employee safety. Section 1910.67 of the Act specifies that vehicle-mounted elevating and rotating work platforms must meet the design, construction and test specifications of the American National Standard Institute A92.2-1969. This is a rather detailed standard that manufacturers of bucket trucks and other elevating platforms must now live by or face court action. The standard lists mechanical and electrical ratings, design and manufacture configurations, and testing and inspection controls. Arborists, tree care companies and others should be familiar with this standard and insure conformance with it.

The Federal Pesticide Control Bill, like an erratic clock, is on the move again. Although it has yet to appear on the Senate floor, action behind subcommittee doors is encouraging. Latest word, at presstime, by the subcommittee is approval and recommendation for full committee consideration of the Bill with amendments. The much debated "certified applicator" amendment has now been rewritten into language compatible with EPA and Green Industry lobbyists. It provides that "...unless otherwise prescribed by its labelling, a pesticide shall be considered to be applied under the direct supervision of a certified applicator if it is applied by a competent person acting under the instructions and control of a certified applicator who is available if and when needed, even though such certified applicator is not physically present at the time and place the pesticide is applied."

Three chemical protectants are being scrutinized by the Environmental Protection Agency. Lindane, benzene hexachloride and endrin are under the bright lights on a use-by-use basis to weigh the benefits against the risks. In another move, EPA suspended the registration of 23 other pesticides because manufacturers failed to provide data required for setting tolerance levels. By law, manufacturers are given 30 days to appeal.

Ecosystem Design and Management, a project funded by the National Science Foundation to the tune of 1.56 million dollars (to date), will have importance in world ecology in the future. The project is under grant to Michigan State University. Dr. William E. Cooper, co-director and MSU associate professor of zoology, says that research is designed to come up with techniques for dealing with environmental problems. Dr. Herman E. Koenig, project director and chairman of MSU's electrical engineering and systems science department says, "It's not as simple as picking up bottles and newspapers for recycling. Living within the constraints of the earth's ecological systems is going to mean a major social, economic and political readjustment for man. It's part of becoming a mature industrialized nation."