



# Government News / Business

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Six sub-groups have been established by the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act. Broad group functions include: registration and re-registration of all pesticides; establishment of criteria to be used for classification of compounds for "general use" or for "restricted use;" employment of "restricted use" pesticides and certification of applicators; experimental use permit regulations; registration of establishments; and books and records to be maintained by producers for inspection.

OSHA APPROVED....Don't believe it! OSHA doesn't approve, authorize or endorse products. The Federal Trade Commission has ruled it an unfair trade practice to misrepresent products approved or required by the U. S. government.

Court judges are taking a dim view of lack of payments to sub-contractors. New York and California justices have ruled that sub-contractors are entitled to payment by the prime contractor following completion of work performed, without regard to final payment to the prime contractor by the owner -- unless the contract otherwise states. If your contract clause states: "...any balance due the sub-contractor shall be paid within 30 days...after his work is finally accepted and approved by the architect and/or engineer..." the court is likely to accept this at face value. A New York court recently said that the trade custom of the prime contractor paying when he is paid does not apply to sub-contractors because they have no control over the work performed by other sub-contractors or by the general contractor.

Lawn-A-Mat Chemical & Equipment Corp. has signed several agreements to acquire the physical manufacturing facilities of several companies of Republic Corporation of Los Angeles. Included are: United Stellar Corp., Plainview, N.Y., Starlight Tool & Mfg. Corp., Joplin, Mo., and Coinmeco, Inc., Illion, N.Y. Lawn-A-Mat will exchange 650,000 shares of stock for the holdings.

Federal Ombudsman for Business is a focal point in the Federal government where businessmen can come directly with questions, complaints or problems which may be solved by informal arbitration. To date this service has handled more than 8,200 requests from businessmen and others in the 24 months of its operation. These entail such topics as government procurement, financial assistance, truth in lending and advertising, occupational safety and health, wages and hours, standards, and industrial pollution. If you need help, write: Thomas E. Drumm, Jr., Ombudsman for Business, U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D. C. 20230, or call (202) 967-3178.

American Garden Products, Inc. has announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire Cal-Turf, Inc. Finalized terms of the acquisition involved a consideration of about \$1.33 million in cash, 12,000 shares of American common stock and contingent payments based on future profits of Cal-Turf.

The freeze on prices of all merchandise and services has created new concerns and new responsibilities for retailers. Most guidelines have been spelled out by the press. What about pricing new merchandise never before offered for sale. The Cost of Living Council says to apply the customary initial percentage markup on the most nearly identical merchandise sold in the freeze base period to the invoice cost plus freight of the new merchandise.