



Government News / Business

Pyrethrins may no longer be classified as "non-toxic to pets and humans," says the Environmental Protection Agency. Under a regulation change, EPA has ruled that although pyrethrins are among the least toxic of insecticides on the market, they do have toxic effects on laboratory animals. The ruling was brought about through public hearing in early August. At that time about 30 comments were received by EPA. Manufacturers were opposed to the change. Public officials and consumer interest groups were in favor. Change is in force for anyone seeking a new registration. For manufacturers with products on the market, a deadline of Dec. 19 has been set to submit labeling information omitting the non-toxic claim. Overall action was brought to better define truth in labeling. EPA said that no new scientific data was submitted on the harmfulness of pyrethrins.

More on EPA....The agency has just set interim rules for civil violations of the 1972 Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA). The rules establish a mechanism for notifying an alleged violator of the charges against him and of the proposed amount of the penalty. They also provide violators the opportunity to request a hearing on the charges or on the appropriateness of the penalty. Maximum civil fine is \$5,000 for commercial applicators and businesses. Private applicators are subject to a written warning the first time, civil action thereafter. Civil action represents a new lever for EPA. Previously, the enforcement program involved criminal actions. Actually, EPA now has both. Regional administrators will be responsible for bringing civil actions to bear. What are the rules? 1. An alleged violator has 20 days in which to respond to charges or request a hearing. Otherwise he will be considered as admitting to the charges and waiving his right to a hearing. 2. If a hearing is requested, it will be conducted by a Federal administrative law judge who will make an initial decision. The EPA regional administrator who initiated the action will issue a final order. An alleged violator can request another hearing or a reconsideration or he may appeal the case to the U. S. Court of Appeals. The interim rules became effective September 20, 1973.

Agrico Chemical Company, a subsidiary of The Williams Companies, Tulsa, Okla. has been purchased by Lebanon Chemical, Lebanon, Pa. for an undisclosed amount.

Questions on pesticides and the environment will be answered on October 24 in the first nationwide "Pesticide Dial-ogue." It's sponsored by the Council of Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) through a grant from the National Agricultural Chemicals Association. Calls will be received from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time. TOLL-FREE number for use anywhere in the continental U. S. except Illinois is 800-621-4232. In Illinois, dial 800-972-8309.

"All About OSHA" is a new booklet published by the Department of Labor. It satisfies the questions who, what, where, when, why and how about OSHA and summarizes the role of the various states in implementing the law. The back cover is an advertisement for the OSHA magazine, "Job Safety & Health." A one-year subscription is \$4.50 payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Expect delays up to six months or more before the magazine arrives. Order OSHA booklet from Department of Labor.