

Government News Business

EPA told an informal hearing panel on March 5, 1975, that if the EPA Administrator determined that a request raises "substantial new evidence" which could materially affect a previous suspension or cancellation order, the request could become subject to public notice procedures and formal hearings before an administrative law judge. The revised procedures were announced at the same time EPA Administrator, Russell Train, turned down a request by the State of Louisiana for emergency permission to use DDT this spring to control tobacco budworm.

New EPA statistics indicate that more than 18,000 pesticide registration "actions" were taken by the agency during the past fiscal year. These "actions" include the registration of 2,804 new products, the denial of registration applications for 3,812 other products and the acceptance of amended applications for 3,851 pesticide products.

The statistics indicate that as of June 1974, a total of 34,029 pesticides--insecticides, weed killers, disinfectants and other pest control products--were registered by EPA. The firms producing, formulating or distributing these products amounted to 3,534. The figures also show that 1,370 pesticides were cancelled by EPA during Fiscal 1974, and 33 products were suspended. Both of these actions prohibit the sale of the affected products because of adverse effects on human health or the environment.

Under the 1972 Federal pesticides law, no pesticide may be sold, distributed or delivered in the U. S. unless registered by EPA. The responsibility for this job belongs to EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs.

No changes, said OSHA boss John H. Stender, in response to EPA's proposal to lower the allowable noise standards from OSHA's proposed 90-decibel level to 85 decibels. EPA questioned the adequacy of OSHA's proposal in a December 18, 1974 notice in the Federal Register, by filing "a request for review and report" on the proposal within 90 days. Under the Noise Control Act of 1972, EPA may require another federal agency to justify its promulgation of any noise regulation that EPA deems inadequate. EPA had recommended an 85-decibel limit to be effective in three years with commitments on the part of OSHA to reduce the level further in the future. EPA declared that the proposed limit of 90 decibels would not adequately protect workers who may be especially susceptible to noise.

OSHA is seeking public comment on a document, "Criteria for a Recommended Standard on an Identification System for Occupationally Hazardous Materials," recently submitted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The document would satisfy requirements of OSHA that employees be warned of toxic material hazards to which they may be exposed. Public comments concerning the paper should be submitted to the Docket Officer, OSHA, U. S. Department of Labor, Room 260-MNWA, 1726 M St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20210.

Occidental Chemical Company signed a contract with Stan M. Woogerd, president of Agrinova Corp., to develop a new line of specialty formulations. Woogerd specializes in the research and development of the technological means for more efficient application methods and for the increased effectiveness of applied chemicals.