



# Government News / Business

Diamond Shamrock has established a fifth regional sales office for its Agricultural Chemicals Division in Houston, Texas. The new office will handle all sales and service requests for those customers located in: New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Western Tennessee. The new address is: 1006 Main St., Houston, Texas.

Department of Labor's 15-member Standards Advisory Committee on Agriculture has added eight new members. Labor Secretary, Peter J. Brennan, said the reconstituted committee will continue to develop and recommend to OSHA standards to protect agriculture workers from on-the-job injury and illness. The committee includes four representatives each of employees and employers, two representatives of the federal and state governments and three representatives of the general public. The eight replace former members whose terms have expired.

International Harvester recently established a Service Maintenance Agreement covering its Outdoor Power Products. The agreement is for sale with new consumer machines covering a period of one year and may be renewed for a second and third year period. The coverage becomes effective on the date of delivery as established by the company's CH 223 Warranty and Delivery Registration Form.

All pesticide producers must register with EPA regardless of where they intend to market their products. Makers and importers of pesticides for interstate commerce had to register last year under the law which set the deadline of October 21, 1974 for registering makers of products for local sale only. EPA expects 3,000 to 4,000 registrations from firms in the local category, although exact figures are not known. The purpose of the regulation is to make local pesticide standards more uniform across the country and to enable EPA to gauge what pesticides are being sold within state borders. Producers failing to comply will be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

New noise level legislation has been proposed by the Department of Labor for protection of workers against occupational noise. The new proposal would retain the present limit of 90 decibels over an eight-hour period but would initiate audiometric testing for workers exposed to 85 decibels or higher. OSHA boss, John H. Stender, said the added requirement "recognizes that comparatively more employees would be at a lower risk level if eight-hour exposures were limited to 85 decibels, but we would take into account technical feasibility and economic problems associated with the lower level." Stender proposed to retain the 90 decibel level until more data can be accumulated that clearly dictates the necessity of a change.

USDA has opened a new office to assist in registration of minor-use pesticides. EPA cooperated by assigning a man to the new office to assist in the registration program.

EPA is also increasing their pesticide labeling program for minor-use crops. Indications are that pesticides will be classified under group labeling by pest or by grouping of plants.