

LANDSCAPE

Word from the Professional Lawn Care Association of America as we went to press: the Department of Transportation has just helped cut down on lawn care operators' paperwork.

HM-200—the rule that covered LCOs who carry specific quantities of hazardous materials—has been modified. Operators no longer have to meet training, emergency response phone number and shipping paper requirements, effective Oct. 1, 1997.

Late news is good news for industry



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"Until now, even if you carried over 1/2 gallon of gas in your truck, you had to have shipping papers," explains Tom Delaney, PLCAA director of government affairs.

"Through phone calls and comments to the *Federal Register* by PLCAA members and attendees at PLCAA's Legislative Day-on-the-Hill in Washington, D.C., the Association was able to put pressure on the Department of Transportation to make this change."

Gasoline containers must be made of metal or plastic and conform to Occupational Safety and Health Agency requirements, which are less stringent than DOT requirements.

"LCO's will also no longer have to conform to state and federal regulations regarding transport of 400-gallon-size tanks or smaller mixed with two percent or less concentration of a Class 9 material, which covers certain pesticides," says PLCAA.

The point is not that product applicators want to abolish any and all regulations, just those that are unfair, impractical, or redundant.

The American Association of Nurserymen reports ergonomic guidelines to prevent "repetitive motion" injuries will be more of an OSHA concern this year.

It's too early to call this bad news, so for now, we'll hope it's good news. It will remain in the "good news" category if resulting guidelines are sensible and workable. For example, the AAN cites a 1994 attempt at ergonomic-related legislation, which wanted to prevent "lifting or carrying anything weighing over 25 pounds without assistance more than once during a workshift."

Once again, no one wants to ignore legitimate worker concerns. I have them, too. As someone who uses a typewriter—excuse me, *keyboard*—regularly, I must say carpal tunnel syndrome is a concern of mine. But I know the ergonomic guidelines that prevent it, and it's up to me to follow them. I also worked a job that required lots of heavy lifting, but I knew when to call my friend Arnold over to help me.

Cleveland-based Freedonia Group predicts demand for commercial lawn and garden equipment will hit \$1.2 billion per year by 2000.

Growth, says Freedonia Group, will come as a result of:

- ▶ favorable demographic trends;
- ▶ a positive outlook for new golf course construction;
- ▶ expanding state and municipal spending;
- ▶ commercial and multi-family home construction;
- ▶ high levels of equipment replacement from golf course superintendents, municipal maintenance crews and professional landscape firms.

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) tells us that legislation proposed in New Hampshire will allow local control of pesticides. It's all in the interest of "home rule," a form of government New Hampshireers seem to prefer.

As did a lot of other people, way back in 1776. **LM**

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