

Ag chemical group endorses OSHA option

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The National Agricultural Chemicals Association endorsed the development and non-mandatory use of good workplace practices

for the pesticide industry as an alternative to government-imposed regulation.

In testimony at federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration hearings held here, NACA argued that a basis has not been developed which justifies a broad-based standard for regulating pesticide exposures during manufacturing and formulating operations.

"Most of the data that has been presented to OSHA in justification of a generic pesticide standard

cited incidences which are either not representative of present-day work practices or are isolated cases not representative of the industry as a whole," said Richard M. Bowers, Chairman of NACA's Occupational Safety and Health Committee.

In endorsing the use of good workplace practices, Bowers offered NACA recommendations

which stressed employee education in hazardous awareness, training in methods for protecting against hazards, emergency response procedures and medical surveillance programs.

He suggested that the principles of these good workplace practices could be disseminated to industry employers and employees through alternatives to mandatory

regulation such as guidelines, technical training bulletins and hazard control or awareness seminars.

NACA is a non-profit, Washington-based trade organization whose 115 members make or formulate virtually all the crop protection chemicals used in the United States and a large percentage used abroad.



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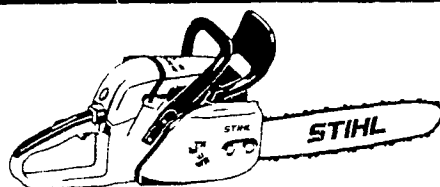
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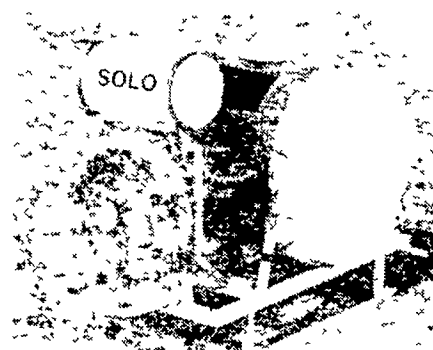
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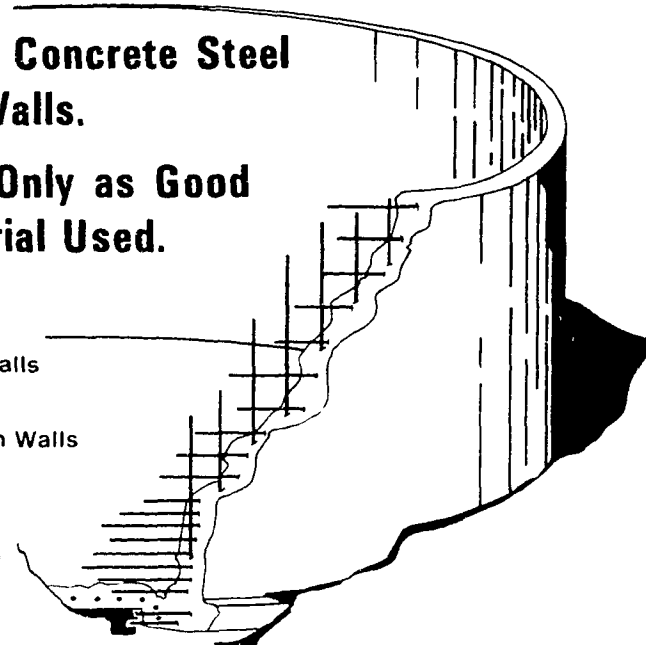
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