

# **Enforcement Action Summary FY 2003 -**

**July 10, 2003**

## **HVAC Instructor Sentenced For False Statements Related to CFC Technician Exams**

Louis Molenda was an instructor for heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) classes at a Chicagoland technical college. On January 30, 2003, a grand jury in the Northern District of Illinois returned an indictment alleging that Mr. Molenda knowingly and willfully falsified, concealed and covered up by trick, scheme or device material facts within U.S. EPA's jurisdiction. On April 23, 2003, Mr. Molenda pleaded guilty to the conduct alleged in the indictment. On June 26, 2003, U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo sentenced Mr. Molenda to four months of home confinement and three years of probation.

While an HVAC instructor, Mr. Molenda also worked as a free-lance proctor for a New York business that U.S. EPA had approved to administer a program for CFC technician certification. In November 2001, Mr. Molenda told the students in his HVAC class that for a fee of \$105 he would take a certification test for universal technician certification for them. He guaranteed them a universal certification card without their having to take the certification test. Universal certification is the highest level of CFC technician certification.

13 students accepted Mr. Molenda's offer, paid him and signed blank certification tests. Mr. Molenda filled out the answers to these tests and mailed them to the New York business for grading. As a result of this and other fraudulent acts by Mr. Molenda, the New York business eventually mailed technician certification cards to most of these students.

Neither the Chicagoland technical college nor the New York business have been charged.

**Contact:** Kris Vezner, (312) 886-6827