

## | COURT DEFERS TO CALIFORNIA |

On June 19, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a challenge by appliance manufacturers to California regulations that require them to put information about their products' energy performance on their appliances. Four major appliance trade groups argued that federal law pre-empted the regulations. They told the Supreme Court that Congress since 1975 has adopted a series of energy laws that regulate efficiency standards, testing, information disclosure and labeling.

The justices declined to review a ruling by a U.S. appeals court based in California that upheld the state regulations. The high court rejected the appeal by the trade groups without any comment or recorded dissent. The U.S. Justice Department had urged the Supreme Court to reject the appeal. It said the appeals court's analysis

of the California regulations did not warrant further review.

The trade groups sued in 2002, challenging regulations that require manufacturers to submit to the California Energy Commission energy efficiency data on appliances sold in the state and to put basic energy information on product nameplates.

They said the regulations covered a number of products, including refrigerators, air conditioners and space heaters. The regulations required disclosure of information such as the brand name, the model number, the appliance's size and its energy performance. The lawsuit was filed by the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute, the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. ■

Sterilization Laboratory in Moscow found that the Kronos technology was able to deliver 100 percent decontamination of a room infected with strains of various airborne bacteria spores.

The second development involved the licensing of Kronos Technology to DESA, Bowling Green, Ky., an established manufacturer of hearth, heating, and other consumer and commercial products. The agreement provides DESA the opportunity to embed the Kronos technology within fireplaces, hearth systems, zone heaters, and electric fans and heaters.

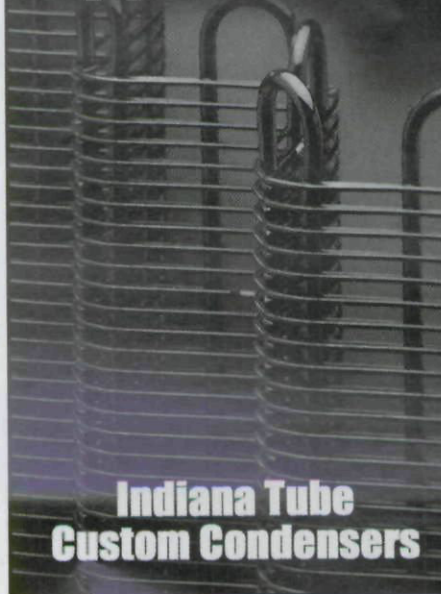
**ENTERTAINING AUTOMATION.** Home entertainment is the key application that will provide traction for the home automation market, according to a study ABI Research, Oyster Bay, N.Y. Home theater systems are increasingly making their way into middle-class homes, and consumers clearly want to integrate their multimedia into residential life. Although home automation can control



Kronos air purification device for medical facilities.

**CLEAR THE AIR.** In June, Kronos Advanced Technologies, Belmont, Mass., revealed two important developments in its efforts to commercialize its proprietary, electrostatic technology for moving and purifying air without any moving parts. The first involved the company's Russian business partner, EOL, based in Korolev, which has initiated product development of a Kronos-based device targeted for use in medical facilities. Tests by the Disinfection Research Institute

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