

TRANSLATION

Ministerio de Sanidad
y Asistencia Social.

Caracas: November 21, 1939
130 and 81

Dirección de Salubridad Pública.
No. 5.740.

Ciudadano Dr. Carlos Ottolina
Municipal a Reducto No. 64
Caracas.

In reply to the inquiries contained in the letter presented by you to this office relative to the interpretation of Article 15 of the Executive Decree dated the 15th of September, containing the latest regulations for the medical provisions that have to be taken with the workers destined for the handling of gasoline mixed with tetra-ethyl lead, I have the honor of communicating to you that the opinion of this Office is the following:

With respect to the selection of the group of workers, two cases may arise.

If the number of workers in the mixing of tetra ethyl is small, it would be most convenient to examine all of them. This examination would be done as indicated in the same article, i.e., every month during the first three months and afterwards, every four months.

If the number of workers is large, then you should proceed to select a group of men which is considered sufficient to serve as index.

Relative to blood examinations mentioned under A of the cited article 15, same should combine the count and aspect of the red corpuscles for a precocious diagnosis of anemia which may appear in these workers, the symptom is of the first order and of considerable importance. This anemia should be discovered hematologically by the alteration and the diminishing of the red corpuscles. The red corpuscles lose their elasticity, become irregular, sickly, are nucleated and above all, show pathogenic granulations which are evidenced by blue polychrom.

Concerning insertion b) as the laboratories of this Ministry are unable to offer efficient analysis due to lack of the proper equipment required in this case, the Company which you represent, could elect from the exterior, one who they believe to be the most efficient in the work desired, this Office reserving the right to modify this ruling as soon as its laboratories acquire the necessary equipment.

God & Federation

(Signed) Julio García Alvarez

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