

H. J. Kiefer

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Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Mr. E. B. Euchner, DPJ
Mr. S. T. Howell, DPJ
Dr. G. E. Pekarek, DPJ
Mr. J. E. Southwick, DPJ
Mr. F. G. Hidalgo, DPJ
Mr. H. M. Werner

LEAD CONTENT LEGISLATION

In an emergency meeting last week attended by Mr. Kinsell from the Glidden Company, FDA and NPVLA executives adopted a plan on the subject.

The intent of this plan is to eliminate individual state legislation on the subject of lead content in paints. Hopefully, this approach will be adopted by the U.S. Government.

In summary, the plan calls for a continuation of the use of not more than 1/2% lead as metal in interior consumer paint products. By January 1, 1973, all lead compounds are to be removed from the interior consumer paint products. Up until this date, interior products containing less than 1/2% lead will require the hazardous labeling identification.

We must immediately take action to meet this plan even though it has not yet been adopted. There is every reason to believe that this regulation will be adopted. Mr. Kinsell indicated that almost all of the paint companies represented at this meeting stated they could conform to this plan. In fact, Mr. Kinsell stated that some of them were already conforming to the no lead compound content stipulation.

It is difficult at present to see how consumer needs can be met relative to drying time in some of our enamel products without the use of lead dryers. I so stated this to Mr. Kinsell and the members of the staff meeting group. However, Mr. Kinsell seemed quite strong in his understanding that many of the other paint companies had already removed lead from interior solvent enamel products.

I have requested that Mr. Southwick obtain fresh materials from a few of our major competitive companies. These are to be examined for lead content both on the label and by analysis. Comparison of drying times are to be made utilizing Glidden products which are as close as possible to several of our competitive materials. Obviously, it will be necessary for us to inform

the sales people whether or not sacrifices will have to be made in drying time on our consumer products. We will also have to tell them how we stand up with competition relative to drying time and tack free time.

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