

C O P Y

PANAMA CANAL COMPANY
CANAL ZONE
Atlantic Branch, Locks Division

Colon, Canal Zone,
March 26, 1956

MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF, LOCKS DIVISION:

Use of Red Lead Primers at
Atlantic Locks

Re: Letter from Lead Industries Ass'n., 6/10/55

The following data concerning the use of Red Lead Primer at the Atlantic Locks is submitted as requested.

Formula 8-5 (P.C. Stock No. 0800522): Fifteen gallons of this primer was received from the Storehouse Division January 1956 as equivalent or superior to other primers currently in use. Subsequent orders for Red Lead Primers has been filled with Formula No. 116 (Bu. Ships Formula per Mil. Spec. MIL-P-17545) P.C. Stock No. 0800457. Different characteristics of the two primers have not been noted for comparative purposes, other than they are fast drying. Prior to this Red Lead Primer was prepared with dry pigment.

1. Red Lead Primer (Formula 116) is used on all underwater parts of valves and miter gates not using bituminous coatings. It is also used on exterior parts of miter gates, cranes, locomotives, elevators, pumps, pipelines, miscellaneous steel structures and tunnel operating machinery.

2. The surface is prepared by scaling and wire brushing to metal and removal of all oil and grease. The surface is given one coat of Red Lead Primer and one coat of color or left untouched as on pumps, pipelines and chain fender cylinders and other equipment where color is not important.

3. On equipment where the surface is exposed to the atmosphere only Red Lead Primer is used normally for touch up repainting at four to five year intervals. Underwater parts are repainted during the five year periodic overhauls.

4. Red Lead Primer prepared with dry pigment and oil is most effective, however, the cost is slightly higher due to labor costs of preparation and loss by settlement of pigment which necessitates mixing of smaller quantities.

/s/ Earl Cassell

EARL CASSELL
Assistant Superintendent
Atlantic Branch, Locks Division

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