

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

420 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

December 24, 1953

Professor Philip Drinker
Harvard School of Public Health
55 Shattuck Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Phil:

As practically a life-long member of the dear old Z37 committee, I would be the last to disagree with you as to its ponderosity. However, I think this was in large measure due to its elephantine size, the disparate interests of its members and their geographic dispersion.

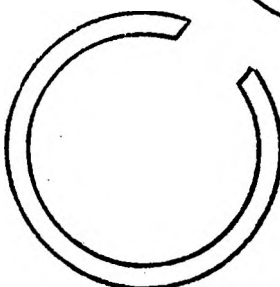
I see no reason why a small, carefully chosen and centrally disposed ASA committee should not achieve at least the pace and efficiency of the ACGIH, which I do not recall as ever having been booked for infraction of the speed laws. Enclosed for your edification is the roster of a newly formed ASA committee which, if Cranch and I can possibly bring it about, will do just that.

I look forward with both interest and pleasure to our pow-wow at 9:30 next Tuesday morning.

Sincerely,

MB

MB:JG



KE 03575

0016

AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION

SECTIONAL COMMITTEE ON HAZARDS TO CHILDREN, 266

Purpose: To establish standard specifications, tests and procedures to minimize home hazards to children which may result in physical injury or poisoning.

Sponsor: American Academy of Pediatrics,
Dr. George M. Wheatley, Chairman, Committee on Accident Prevention.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SAFE LABELING OF COATINGS FOR CHILDREN'S TOYS AND FURNITURE

Purpose: To establish standard specifications for safe coatings (paints, enamels, lacquers, etc.) for children's toys and furniture and for labeling such coatings in accordance therewith.

Sponsor: Lead Industries Association,
Mr. Manfred Bowditch, Director of Health and Safety.

Proposed Personnel of Subcommittee

- Members:** Dr. A. G. Cranch (Chairman), Consulting Toxicologist, Union Carbide and Carbon Corp., 30 East 42d St., New York 17, N.Y. (3)
- Mr. S. T. Barker, Assistant Director, Bureau of Environmental Sanitation, New York State Department of Health, Albany 11, N.Y. (1)
- Mr. Manfred Bowditch, 420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N.Y. (8)
- Mr. R. J. Eckart, Vice-President, Sapolin Paints, Inc., 229 East 42d St., New York 17, N.Y. (5)
- Dr. J. H. Foulger, Medical Department, E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington 98, Del. (3,5,6)
- Dr. L. M. Fraad, Department of Pediatrics, New York Hospital, 525 East 68th St., New York 21, N.Y. (4)
- Dr. May R. Mayers, 214 East 18th St., New York 3, N.Y. (3)
- Mr. D. A. Merson, Vice-President, National Lead Co., 111 Broadway, New York 6, N.Y. (5,6,7,8)
- Mr. C. W. Slocum, Vice-President, Devoe and Reynolds Co., Delancey and Rutherford Sts., Newark 5, N.J.; President, New York Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association. (5,6,7)
- Mr. Jerome Trichter, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Department of Health, 125 Worth St., New York 13, N.Y. (2)
- Alternates:** Mr. S. B. Coolidge, Vice-President, Sherwin-Williams Co., 101 Prospect Ave., N.W., Cleveland 15, Ohio. (5,6) For Mr. Merson.
- Mr. H. L. Parker, Acting General Manager, Benjamin Franklin Paint and Varnish Co., 4800 Langdon St., Philadelphia 24, Pa. (5) For Mr. Eckart.
- Mr. J. P. Ruth, Vice-President, The Glidden Co., Union Commerce Bldg., Cleveland 14, Ohio (5,8) For Mr. Slocum.

KE 03576

Numbers in parenthesis indicate representation in the following categories:

1. New York State Department of Health.
2. New York City Department of Health.
3. Toxicology.
4. American Academy of Pediatrics.
5. Paint manufacturing.
6. National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association.
7. New York Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association.
8. Lead Industries Association.

December, 1953

KE 03577

00100

January 5, 1954

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Manfred:

The old question of the tolerable concentration of lead compounds continues to come up from time to time in various ways and from various sources. So far as I am concerned, while I recognize the weakness of the present position, I see no great advantage in changing it at this time, when to do so would be merely to substitute another unknown, or a series of unknowns, for a rather loose rule of thumb.

As you may be aware, we are investigating certain aspects of this problem now by adequate means, and we shall have some of the answers eventually, in a form that will justify and even demand recognition. I don't want to indulge in "guestimates" at this time, for it was precisely for the purpose of avoiding such illogical and unproductive efforts that we began these experiments.

If the matter is to be opened up at all, it could best be done (to death) by Z37. If, however, as I suspect, this Committee of A. S. A. is dead, the subject will, of necessity, be considered further sometime by ACGIH. My feelings about Z37 are somewhat mixed. I regret its demise, but it was too cumbersome and too representative of too many necessarily clashing interests, to accomplish anything. It was a beautiful example of too much organization with too little ideation. We might about as well put the matters at issues to a general popular vote. It is likely that I am somewhat jaundiced by my unwillingness to spend more time attending meetings (of all kinds) that are regularly or often unproductive. I have work to do at home, but I spend too little of my time there to accomplish it.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

KE 03578

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

FELIX EDGAR WORMSER, PRESIDENT
H.C. BROWNELL, VICE PRESIDENT
J.A. MARTINO, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT LINDLEY ZIEGFELD,
SECRETARY-TREASURER

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

December 14, 1953

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D., Director
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

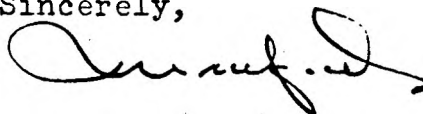
Dear Bob:

As is not unnatural, I find myself with some frequency a party to discussions on the subject of Threshold Values for lead and its compounds. The latest suggestion to come my way in this field is one to the effect that the time honored and all embracing 0.15 mg. per. cu. m. should be raised to 0.25 for lead fume and to 0.5 for such lead dusts as those from grinding ores, processing, etc. What do you think of that?

I have long felt in a mild way that 0.15 was probably too low and in a far stronger way that it was pretty absurd to lug around such toxically disparate eggs as lead oxide and lead sulfide in the same hygienic basket. If, therefore, the matter of these values is to be opened up, would it not be better to throw it wide open and do a thorough cleaning of the hen roost?

And one more if. If this is to be done, should it be left to that rather strangely constituted committee of the ACGIH or should there be a partial resurrection of the ASA's more cumbersome but also more meticulous Z37 committee for the purpose? I frankly do not know too much about the present functioning of the ACGIH group, but I have heard enough criticism of their end results to be somewhat from Missouri.

Sincerely,



MB:JG



VE 03579