

January 7, 1970

Mr. P. L. Nelson
Purchasing Department
Hydra-Matic
Division of General Motors
Willow Run
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Your letter of May 8, 1969, concerning toxicological and hazardous information relating to a number of Du Pont products which you use has been passed along to me for reply.

The composition of Duce® lacquers 253-23663 and 253-90857 differs in no important respect from that of many similar representatives of this class of products. It contains resinous materials, pigments, and a mixture of solvents which have been blended to provide acceptable properties during application and after drying. The nitrocellulose type resins and the mixtures of vegetable oil alkyds present have no important toxicological properties. They produce neither strong irritation nor sensitization on the skin. The solvents consist of aromatic (benzene-free) and aliphatic hydrocarbons, ketones, and alcohols. They are capable of drying the skin by dissolving the natural fats. Prolonged and repeated skin contact should be avoided.

Excessive inhalation of the solvent vapors may produce irritation of the nose and eyes and, if prolonged, it can produce a type of drunkenness called narcosis. They have no important systemic toxic effects. Complete recovery occurs after a person is removed from contaminated air.

Dulux® enamel 69-771 is comprised essentially of alkyd resins, inert pigments and filler, and aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents. The statements summarizing the toxicology of the solvents in Duce® lacquers (see above) are also applicable to the aliphatic hydrocarbons.

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The components of Dulux® enamel 113-8012 are comprised essentially of alkyd resins, inert pigments and fillers, and aromatic (benzene-free) and aliphatic hydrocarbons. The resinous and pigment components are characterized by a high degree of chemical inertness and would not be expected to exhibit physiological activity.

Exposure to a concentrated mixture of vapor and mist of these solvents, as before, can be expected to be irritating and cause narcosis; therefore, we caution against breathing solvent vapors. In addition, these solvents are good fat solvents; hence, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin should be avoided.

This product also contains driers which are commonly used, and the history regarding their health aspects has been good over the years. We particularly should point out that lead tellate is present in this product. The hazard encountered in the use of this metallic drier would be expected to be associated with the metal present. The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists established a Threshold Limit Value of 0.2 mg /M³ of air. It is, therefore, recommended that adequate ventilation be provided for operations utilizing products containing lead compounds.

Du Pont lacquer thinner 36407 is comprised of aromatic (benzene-free) and aliphatic hydrocarbons and low boiling alcohols and ketones (e.g. acetone, methyl isobutyl ketone, butyl and isopropyl alcohols, etc.). The aliphatic hydrocarbon is the major ingredient (>50%).

Du Pont lacquer thinner 8610 is comprised essentially of V.M. & P. naphtha and toluene.

The toxicology and hazards associated with the above thinners are essentially that, as outlined for the Duco® and Dulux® products.

The information submitted herewith is considered proprietary to Du Pont and should be used only as it pertains to your medical and safety needs.

We apologise for the delay in replying to your letter; and if we can be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A. B. Naselow
Toxicity Coordinator

ABW/jag