

cc: J. C. Richards - Wilmington
W. S. Zimmt - Marshall Lab
R. W. Laurrell - Wilmington
R. S. Prengle - Wilmington

Wilmington, Delaware 19898
September 11, 1970

P. J. DE MARCO
F. & F. WILMINGTON

**FUTURE USE OF PHENYL MERCURIC
PROPIONATE, G-796**

Re: Your letter to J. C. Richards, September 10, 1970.

At the NPVLA meeting September 10, 1970 on the use of mercury compounds in paint, it was conceded that future legislation will probably prohibit the use of mercury in paint. The Industries best course of action is to try and buy enough time to convert to non-mercurial biocides in an orderly manner. We may be able to accomplish this by presenting the facts as we know them on the toxicity and pollution potential of mercury-containing paints to appropriate legislative bodies and by showing good faith in trying to replace the mercury in paints as soon as possible.

I do not know how much G-796 is ordinarily bought at one time, however, both W. S. Zimmt and myself believe that any purchase which could be construed as stockpiling of mercury compounds should be avoided since it runs contrary to NPVLA attempts to show good faith in dealing with this problem. It should also be noted that the quantity of mercury-containing compounds purchased by Du Pont is already known by appropriate regulatory agencies.

For these reasons, I recommend, with W. S. Zimmt's concurrence, that we do not buy more than our usual amount of G-796.

WILLIAM W. MILLER
TOXICITY COORDINATOR

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