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May 24, 1972

Mr. D. H. Haas
Executive Director
Illinois Association For The Mentally Retarded
343 South Dearborn St.
Chicago, Ill. 60604

Dear Mr. Haas:

This is in response to your letter of May 9 to Mr. Spencer on the subject of lead levels in interior paints.

As a responsible corporate citizen, Sherwin-Williams is vitally concerned about our environment. We are completely sympathetic with programs designed to improve the environment based on logic and fact.

As you undoubtedly know, studies are now underway to determine at what lead level paint could be considered hazardous when ingested by humans. We are not aware at this time of any irrefutable scientific evidence that paints containing .5% or less of lead if eaten have or can cause mental retardation in children.

However, in view of public concern combined with both present and pending legislation, we have been able to establish after considerable effort and expense an internal operating policy of restricting the maximum lead level of .06% in all of our interior on-site applied household products manufactured since late 1972. This has necessitated extensive reformulation of products, and in some instances, the policy has dictated removal of the products from the marketplace or has led to the development of substitute products. Unfortunately, not all of the latter have the performance characteristics consumers have come to expect.

I hope this brief review of our experience is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.

[redacted]:AM

bcc - WOS ADC CHL
P.S. to WOS ADC CHL - The above was approved by A. D. Childs and C. M. Lange before mailing.

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