

June 3, 1930

Mr. H. M. Williams,
Frigidaire Corporation,
32 N. Main Street,
Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have read your letter of May 28 in regard to the use of a porcelain frit which contains lead. There are two aspects of this problem. One of them is that you undoubtedly introduce some lead hazard into the spraying process in addition to the one you now have, namely that of silica. Both of these hazards will require a certain amount of observation. This brings to my mind a statement of Dr. Shafer's to the effect that at the present time he does not have adequate facilities for properly watching your men who are handling the porcelain spraying in such a way as to check the development of silicosis among them. This has nothing to do with the question you have asked me, but it strikes me that anything that you can do toward making it possible for Dr. Shafer to watch these men, follow them, and to exclude from time to time such men as show evidence of silicosis, you ought to do. I recognize that you are not in charge of the works, but I believe that your voice is listened to with a considerable amount of respect.

How important the addition of lead to this porcelain will be to your porcelain handlers I do not know. I suspect that it will not be very important. That is a matter which we can check without any great inconvenience. The effect of such a porcelain upon food materials is one which is in all probability insignificant. I do not believe that it will occasion any difficulty, nor that it will make any subsequent contribution to the lead content of food materials. In any case, there will be no danger in resorting to the use of this material for such a time as would be necessary to enable us to arrive at a certain conclusion in the matter. We fully anticipate a thorough-going study of the extent to which food materials in general are contaminated with lead as the result of spraying with insecticides, and as the result of picking up lead from various containers in which they are to be kept. The investigation of your problem, therefore, would be right in line with what we propose doing, and it would take only a very short time. I see no reason, therefore, why you should not go ahead with your program if you can in this way get away from your mechanical difficulties.

Sincerely yours,

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