

Lead Industries Association, Inc.

222 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) 879-0989

February 3, 1968

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION'S INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

R. W. URWIN, NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY

RE: LEAD RELEASE - GLAZED CRYSTALINE

Dear Mr. _____:

Attached is a rather large file covering a situation encountered by LIA in early December, 1968 and carried substantially forward since that time.

It is felt that this is a rather clear-cut example of the type of work the Association can do effectively.

We would be happy to have any comment you care to offer.

Sincerely,

J. L. Kimberley
J. L. Kimberley
Executive Vice President

JLK/dmm
Attachments

Lead Industries Association, Inc.

252 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: GR 2 679-0220

February 3, 1969

RE: LEAD RELEASE - GLAZED CHINAWARE

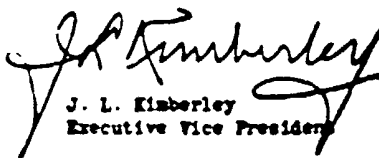
Attached is a file on a matter of potentially large significance as related to the use of lead in glazes for chinaware.

An unfortunate situation has arisen in the United States which is covered at length in the attachments.

We believe you will wish to consider this carefully and take such appropriate action as might be required to safeguard lead's interests in your country, your sphere of influence, and as may be related to your company's pottery export business.

I would be delighted to have any comments you wish to make concerning any actions that you may find feasible.

Sincerely,


J. L. Kimberley
Executive Vice President

JLK/dsm
Attachments

cc: All Free World Lead Associations

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Lead Industries Association, Inc.

200 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) 879-1800

February 3, 1969

Mr. B. V. Merwin
Chairman, Research Committee
U. S. Potters Association
c/o The Hall China Company
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

RE: LEAD RELEASE - GLAZED CHINAWARE

Dear Mr. Merwin:

I am sure the attached report and correspondence dealing with green Japanese dinnerware as distributed in the United States by The Lefton Company will be of interest to you and the members of the Executive Committee of the U. S. Potters Association. The report was prepared and the file assembled primarily to alert LIA's oxide producing members to the problem and to inform them of what we have done to head off development of a potentially serious situation.

It has become apparent from this specific case that there is need for a universally effective standard for lead release from glazed dinnerware. It is also obvious from the recent dialogue our Mr. J. F. Smith had with FDA officials that they would be interested in discussing this subject further with the appropriate U.S.I.A. group, and I urge you to arrange such a meeting at your earliest convenience. I suggest you contact:

Mr. Clifford Hampshire
Deputy Director
Office of Product Safety
Bureau of Medicine
Food & Drug Administration -
Washington, D. C.

It is indeed fortunate that U.S.P.A. has developed for its own use a workable lead release standard of 1 ppm, and that the means for testing is also well established, as by ASTM C555. This will unquestionably be of use to the FDA in its consideration of any Federal standard or limits, and may very well serve as a model for promulgation of such limits on lead release from glazed china intended for food use. It seems likely that if the Potters do not establish a working relationship with the FDA in creation of such standards, the FDA may very well act on its own.

Your comments would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. L. Kimberley
J. L. Kimberley
Executive Vice President

JLK/dm
Attachment

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Lead Industries Association, Inc.

222 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) 679-6000

February 3, 1969

RE: LEAD RELEASE - GLAZED CHINAWARE

Attached hereto is a report of LIA actions, taken and proposed, concerning lead release from glazed chinaware, as well as pertinent correspondence between LIA and the Japan Lead Zinc Association in Tokyo.

This report and correspondence cover a unique and potentially dangerous situation which came to LIA'S attention in mid December, 1968, prompting our action which seems already to have been substantially effective. The Japanese reaction and their steps taken are being monitored.

Copies of this letter and material are being sent to the lead associations of the free world with a recommendation that each consider the problem seriously and act in its own country and sphere of influence wherever and however appropriate. The LIA is following through on the action still needed in the United States.

Over and above the specific issue of the Japanese chinaware discussed, is the ever-lasting and lasting problem of a "black eye" and serious restrictions for lead glazes in all parts of pottery, should the situation be misunderstood.

Lead Industries Association, here in New York, would welcome any comment, suggestion or report of action which you may see fit to take.

Sincerely,

J. L. Kimberley
J. L. Kimberley
Executive Vice President

JLK/dmm
Attachments

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Lead Industries Association, Inc.

222 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) 679-0000

GENERAL NOTES

LEAD RELEASE - GLAZED CERAMICWARE

December, 1968 - January, 1969

On December 19, 1968, the Lead Industries Association was alerted to the development of a situation concerning lead release from glazed ceramic pottery which required immediate, constructive action. Certainly, the events leading up to this affair, the action taken by LIA, and results to date will be of interest to you. They are detailed in the following paragraphs:

The sales manager of a well-known U.S. ceramic raw materials supplier (Penco Corp.) noticed, while shopping in a Baltimore, Maryland store, decorative cups, mugs and other ceramic items glazed with a distinctive copper green glaze. The material, manufactured in Japan, is known as green "hollyware" because of the distinctive dark green color with a prominent decoration of red berries.

Here in the U. S., pottery manufacturers have known for many years that ceramic ware with this particular copper-green glaze might, if used to store juices or other acidic foods, release potentially hazardous amounts of lead - as well as copper and other toxic heavy metals. The Penco sales manager brought this fact to the attention of the store's manager, and subsequently called the Bureau of Food Control, Baltimore City Health Department, to repeat his findings.

Samples of the ware were obtained by both Penco and the Baltimore City Health Department and independently tested for lead release by a standard U. S., ASTM method (C555). A cup, tested at the Penco laboratories, showed lead release of 105 ppm and 80 ppm in successive tests. At this point, LIA, as well as the U. S. distributor of the ware, G. Z. Leffon Company of New York and Chicago, were informed of the matter.

In order to ascertain the extent and how best to handle this problem, LIA immediately contacted the distributor of this ceramic ware. He expressed surprise that the material showed high lead release, and pointed out that it had been distributed by his firm for at least six years here in the U. S. without prior difficulties. LIA obtained samples of the ware for testing, and when the results, as determined at the laboratory of a recognized Rutgers University authority, confirmed lead release of 60 to 70 ppm, we urged the distributor not to release any more of the material and to recall voluntarily all food utensils of "hollyware" from his sales outlets.

Simultaneously, the executive vice president of LIA initiated steps to have the Japanese producer of this material stop further manufacture and shipments at the source. To this end, the Japan Lead Zinc Association was requested to:

1. Locate the manufacturer and take whatever steps were necessary to prevent further production of the ware;
2. Arrange, if possible, for the destruction of existing stocks which might be used for food or beverages;

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3. Prevent further shipment of the material to the U. S. (and to other parts of the world, if applicable); and,
4. Help determine if firms other than Lefton were importing the material to this country.

The Japan Lead Zinc Association was most cooperative and has taken the steps requested by LIA and more. Copies of the letters to and from Japan are attached.

Meanwhile, arrangements were made for an LIA staff member to meet with representatives of the Baltimore City Health Department and the Baltimore office of the FDA (which had by that time been called into the matter). The purpose of the visit was to clarify, if necessary, for the two governmental agencies, the fact that the use of copper stains with lead-bearing glazes, even in small amounts, greatly affects lead release under the standard ASTM Test. At this meeting, and at a subsequent meeting with FDA officials in the Chicago District Office, it was the intent of the Association to make it clear that:

1. Such copper stains have not been used on dinnerware manufactured in the U. S. for decades.
2. Extensive research sponsored jointly by the International Lead Zinc Research Organization and the U. S. Potters Association has shown that with the exception of copper, no other common glaze additive increases lead release when the ware is properly fired.
3. A maximum lead solubility of 7 ppm from glazes when tested by the ASTM method (C555) has been acknowledged as reasonable and safe and voluntarily used by the members of the U.S.P.A. since August, 1966.
4. The Association will urge other lead associations throughout the free world to bring to bear whatever influence they can, to encourage the adoption of realistic and practicable testing as well as sound standards for dinnerware - whether intended for export or for domestic use.

It is felt that the Association has done everything possible to date in:

1. Presenting facts pertaining to release of lead from copper glazes.
2. Pointing out to the various governmental agencies concerned with this problem, that the parameters for defining lead release from glazed dinnerware have been established here in the U. S. and that currently all members of the U. S. Potters Association are operating under a lead release limit of 7 ppm.

J. V. Smith
J. I. Kimberley



Lead Industries Association, Inc.

222 Madison Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) 679-6600

December 24, 1968

Dr. S. Tokunaga
Japan Lead Zinc Association
New Nishiya Building
No. 3 - 6 chome Uchisaiwaicho - chome
Chiyoda - Ku,
Tokyo, Japan

RE: JAPANESE CHINAWARE

Dear Dr. Tokunaga:

As you have no doubt heard from Mr. Tomita of Mitsui Mining & Smelting Company, Ltd., by cable and letter, the Lead Industries Association has run into what we believe to be a potentially dangerous situation in connection with glazed Japanese chinaware which releases dangerous amounts of lead when subjected to a standard American Society for Testing and Materials procedure for determining this characteristic.

The sequence of events leading to the Lead Industries Association entrance into this problem is as follows:

1. An American manufacturer of materials for the glazing of pottery and dinnerware makes a standard practice of checking imported materials.
2. In a routine test of a green cup decorated with red berries on its outside - made in Japan - a dangerous amount of lead was released during the standard American Society for Testing and Materials procedure. A copy of the ASTM Designation C555-G-67, Tentative Method of Determination of Lead Extracted from Glazed Ceramic Surfaces, is enclosed for your information and use. Samples of the cups, both tested and untested, are going to you under separate cover for your purposes.
3. The dinnerware does not show a manufacturer's name, though there is imprinted on each piece a model number.
4. The American importer in New York who distributes this material at least in this part of the country is G. E. Leffon Company, 225 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. We met with the importer and learned that he has distributed this ware for six years or more and that more than \$2,000,000 worth has moved in the last two years. Cups and saucers are, of course, only a part of the line.
5. To give you specific data on the importance of this problem and its potential seriousness, we were told that the cups released 105 parts per million of lead in the first test and 40 parts per million in a repeat test on the same object.

An American standard has been in effect which limits the release of lead in this test to seven parts per million and expert advice has it that good dinnerware would consistently release less than that, which would make the standard (seven parts per million release maximum) an easy specification to live with.

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December 24, 1968

Dr. S. Tokunaga
Tokyo, Japan

The Lead Industries Association employs an expert industrial hygienist and he tells us that continued use of a material releasing over a hundred parts per million in a standard test could be dangerous to human health-lead poisoning could result.

If this Japanese product has been sold in the U. S. for six years or more, it is obvious that there is no practical way to recall it. We would ask that you undertake whatever steps are necessary in Japan to prevent the further manufacture of such ware and go as far as you possibly can in arranging for the destruction of existing stocks that would be used for serving food or beverages. Certainly, there should be no further shipments of such materials and it is obvious that you will have an interest in determining and perhaps taking corrective measures as may be involved with shipments from Japan to other parts of the world than the U. S.

We at LIA believe that this type of occurrence could be very damaging as concerns not only the Japanese manufacturer but the Lead Industry at large.

The findings of lead release have been confirmed by the application of the same test to multiple pieces in the laboratories of an outstanding American authority at Rutgers University. The findings indicated that lead releases on two cups tested were 64 and 70 parts per million respectively.

We have been vaguely informed that the Japanese manufacturer is located in Nagoya and is said to employ about 500 people. We cannot more definitely identify him.

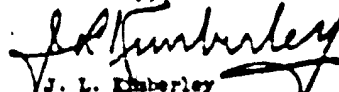
We propose to convey our findings to the New York American importer and distributor and would appreciate your help in determining if there are other importers and distributors in this country as well as who and where they are.

I should like you to know that Mitsui Mining and Smelting Company's office in New York with Mr. Takenori Tomita as Senior spokesman met with us to discuss the problem and that this reference of the situation to you is in line with his recommendation. I believe that you will have heard from Mr. Tomita by cable and letter in advance of receiving this statement from me. I will be pleased to hear from you as soon as practical as to what steps you propose or have accomplished.

As a representative of the lead industry of the United States, I feel that a proper handling of this situation can result in an improvement in general industry image but at the same time an improper handling of the situation could be most damaging. In these times with the lead industry under frequent attack, at least indirectly, from all sorts of reports on poisoning and air pollution, I feel we have a grave responsibility.

Please let me hear from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely,


J. L. Kimberley
Executive Vice President

JLK/so

January 8, 1969

Mr. Jack Kimberley
Lead Industries Association
292 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Kimberley:

As I cabled you, we are endeavouring to get further informations on the pottery trouble. I received your letter of December 24 last year. We had a talk with Japan Pottery Manufacturers Federation represented by Mr. Yukio Yamamoto, Director General of the Federation, and started to investigate the serious fair in cooperation.

Our findings up to the present are as follows:

1. The names and addresses of the manufacturer and exporter of the pottery.
 - a. Manufacturer: Maruri Shokai
President: Mr. Jukuro Mizuno
Address: 1 chome Suinanchō, Seto City, Aichi Prefecture
 - b. Exporter: Nagoya Boeki Shokai (Nagoya Trading Company)
President: Mr. Kanji Nunome
Address: 3, 1 chome Suidozaki, Higashiku, Nagoya City
2. The manufacturer has stopped their production of the potteries in question, i.e., coffee cups and saucers according to the strong recommendation of Japan Pottery Manufacturers Federation. Furthermore, the Federation has prohibited the manufacturer to remove the commodities in their warehouse. The disposition of the sealed commodities will be decided after the negotiation between the exporters and the importers referring to the contract between them.
3. Mr. Shiro Mizuno, Managing Director of Maruri Shokai, the son of the President, is visiting your country in early January to negotiate with the importer, and he is willing to visit you in your office at that time.
4. Maruri Shokai claims that they have never exported that kind of pottery to the countries other than U. S. A., because all the products were of the client's design. Furthermore, they say, there is no U. S. importer other than G. F. Leflow Co.
5. Japanese government will decide an industrial standard (JIS) for the testing of the potteries for domestic use and for exportation on April, this year. Swiss standard for the determination of lead extracted from glazed ceramic surfaces will be referred to it. The new JIS will be promulgated on October.

January 8, 1969

Some copies of your letter dated December 24 and the ASTM Designation: C555-64T were handed to Mr. Yukio Yamamoto, and the copies will be distributed among the manufacturers and exporters.

The Japan Pottery Manufacturers Federation will emphatically warn all the pottery manufacturers to make sure of the fixation of lead pigments in coloured glazing in baking.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sumio Tokunaga

ST:ks