

May 25, 1971

Mr. Harold Davis
Foil Division
Revere Copper & Brass
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Davis:

This is in response to your request for an opinion on the potential hazard to children from the use of lead foil for Christmas tree decorations.

For many years, research has been conducted on the causes of lead intoxication. The picture is quite clear in that repeated dosages of lead in soluble form are always required to produce poisoning. One could foresee that a child could ingest a piece of lead foil. However, this would not likely take place *repeatedly* over an extended period of time.

Also, lead metal is only very slightly soluble in gastric juices. Lead pigment and salts ~~which~~ have been implicated in past cases of intoxication are much more soluble than lead metal.

In my opinion, there would be very little potential hazard from the use of lead foil as described above. However, if you would like a more expert evaluation of this use, I suggest that you contact Dr. Robert A. Kehoe of the Kettering Laboratory of the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Kehoe is the acknowledged world expert on lead intoxication. While I am certain that he would agree with my evaluation of this use of lead, it may be valuable for you to obtain his opinion independently. Dr. Kehoe's address is: The University of Cincinnati, Kettering Laboratory, College of Medicine, Eden Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Sincerely,

J. F. Cole, Sc. D.
Manager, Environmental Health.

cgj

LIA-76638