

Adress 070
DER STAATLICHE GEWERBEARZT
für den Aufsichtsbezirk Westfalen

HL.
Folgendes Aktenzeichen angeben)

463 Bochum, den 7.12.1970

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Der Staatliche Gewerbearzt, 463 Bochum, Marienplatz 2

Herrn Professor
R.A. Kehoe
Dep. of Occupational Medicine
University of
Cincinnati /USA

Conc: Limit values for lead workers; Amsterdam-conference
1968

Dear Mr. Kehoe!

We were much astonished at the recommendations made on the Amsterdam-conference in 1968, since at the same time well known specialists had published quite different limit values for leadworkers. Such limit values were in the "Statement" (Brit. Med. J. 1968, 4, 501):

ALA	20 mg/Liter
CP	500 µg/Liter

On the Amsterdam-conference those values were reduced to the half without detectable motivation:

ALA	10 mg/ Liter
CP	300 µg/Liter

whereupon the public lead neurosis has been started in 1970 in Germany.

The Amsterdam limit values for ALA and CP are scarcely more than upper normal limits for industrial workers without known lead exposition:

Normal:	mg ALA/l	μ g CP/l
M + 2s	6,5	200
M + 3s	8	250

In this point the proposals of Amsterdam seem to be a nonsense in occupational medicine, for two reasons:

- 1) All work with lead connected with some exposition in the manner of nowadays should be stopped.
- 2) Lead up to 70 μ g/100 ml blood was said to be acceptable in Amsterdam. But with lead levels within 50 - 70 μ g/100 ml very often occure Ala - and CP-concentrations up to 20 mg/l and 800 μ g/l respectively. That means, the Amsterdam relation between 70 μ g Pb/100 ml blood and 10 mg ALA/l urine is not correct. (A reprint is added to see the relation ALA-CP).

I would be grateful, if you would stand up for the reasonable " Statement ", you have signed, which contains limit values proved since many years. The Statement agrees fairly well with the old german values, but the new ones lead to a complete confusion.

Yours sincerely

Lilapum

PS. The same letter in german is sent to
Zielhuis and Vigliani