



The B. F. Goodrich Company

FIRST IN RUBBER

AKRON, OHIO

September 10, 1953

Dr. R. A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

This is a reply to your letter of September 1, 1953 relative to the contaminated blood and urine specimens.

Fortunately, from the standpoint of not having to repeat the analysis of the three individuals indicated, these people are no longer in our employ and, therefore, repeat examinations will not be necessary.

Very truly yours,

W. E. McCormick
Department of Industrial
Hygiene and Toxicology

MEM
vc

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N 7383

September 1, 1953

Mr. William E. McCormick
Department of Industrial Hygiene
and Toxicology
The B. F. Goodrich Company
Akron, Ohio

Dear Mr. McCormick:

I regret very much to have to report to you that the occurrence of an accidental contamination of the air in one of our analytical laboratories resulted in the contamination of a series of samples with lead in the process of their preparation and analysis. Apparently the leakage of oil from the bearings of the compressor of an air-conditioning unit into an air duct gave rise to the presence of finely divided lead-bearing dust, which being deposited caused an unknown amount of lead to be added to samples then in process. The trouble was noted fairly promptly, but not before a series of samples had been contaminated. The results of the analyses of these samples are quite useless except to disclose something of the nature and duration of the difficulty within the Laboratory, and therefore those involved in the episode will not be reported.

I list below the names of your group of employees whose samples were involved, together with the type of such samples, and request that you let us know your wishes in the matter of the replacement of these samples. No charge will be made for the analysis of contaminated samples, since the fault is our own. I regret the inconvenience to which you may be put by this circumstance. Our own loss in the matter is considerable, since some of the samples involved in some of our experimental work cannot be replaced.

Only rarely have we experienced difficulties of this type, but it may be useful to call attention to this as one of the problems that attend the conduct of microchemical analyses of elements that are so widespread in nature as lead. The tempo of our work will be retarded somewhat by the necessity of making certain repairs and of cleaning out the air distribution system of the involved analytical area, but we shall complete the samples on hand plus any duplicates that may be supplied to us, at the earliest possible time. In order to save time we are forwarding to you the containers and equipment required to duplicate the samples listed below:

KE 0005629

Mr. William E. McCormick - (2) - September 1, 1953

Urine Samples

[REDACTED]

Urine and Blood Samples

[REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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