

October 9, 1972

M. J. MC DOWELL
MARSHALL LAB.

MERCURY IN LATEX PAINTS

This is in response to your September 18 letter to H. S. Wellman and confirms our recent telephone discussion.

We, too, were concerned about the possible implications of the Sibbett (1) paper. Shortly after it was presented in Boston, we sent a copy to Haskell Lab. for an opinion as to whether there might be a mercury problem with our indoor latex paints. Haskell reviewed this paper and other information in their files. This included the Goldwater (2) paper reporting mercury levels in rooms being painted with mercury-containing latex paints. As a result of this review, Haskell concluded that there was not enough mercury in our latex wall paints to present undue risks to users of the paint.

Even though we had already reviewed the potential hazard of mercury in our paint, we appreciate your bringing this to our attention. We hope that you will continue to call our attention to potential toxicity problems that may have been overlooked.

E. E. SWAIN, JR.
TOXICITY COORDINATOR

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- (1) Sibbett et al - ACS, Boston, April, 1972
- (2) Goldwater, L. J. and Jacobs, M. B. "Mercury Exposure from the use of a Mercury Bearing Paint" 11/9/64

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