

National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association

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August 5, 1971

Mr. Harold Spitzer, Technical Director
The Sherwin-Williams Co.
101 Prospect Avenue, N.W.
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

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Dear Harold:

I have just received a confidential copy of a paper by Dr. Barry King of the U. S. Department of Public Health. In this paper, Dr. King sets forth criteria for evaluating the lead hazard of painted surfaces.

Dr. King develops evidence to indicate that the quantity of lead in painted surfaces with single and multiple layers of paint should not exceed 0.03 mg. Pb. per square centimeter. He also indicates that the daily permissible intake of lead for a child should not exceed 0.2 mg. of lead per day from all sources in addition to the lead impurities normally contained in his diet. On page 5, paragraph IV, Dr. Kehoe's work is referenced. I believe lead acetate was used as the lead source in Kehoe's study.

For many years, the paint industry has geared its formulas and manufacturing processes to the production of coatings for children's toys and furniture, and to interior architectural paints which contain less than 1% lead (as metal) in the non-volatile content (ANSI Standard Z60.1). It seems to me that any appreciable lowering of that standard tolerance for lead could lead to a definite hardship for the paint industry. I would like your opinion on this point, also.

As you can see, attempting to relate Dr. King's figures to a percent by weight standard for lead tolerance results in a very low lead level. With no control over the total film thickness of multiple coats of paint applied over a period of years, it could amount to almost a zero lead tolerance.

PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION

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Mr. Harold Spitzer

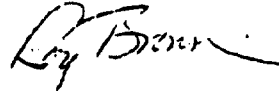
- 2 -

August 5, 1971

Will you please read Dr. King's paper and send me your comments on the information which is presented as you feel it relates to the manufacture of coatings. Government agencies are under pressure from various consumer groups to lower the 1% lead standard. Please remember that this is confidential information.

Thanks for your prompt reply to this request.

Sincerely,



Royal A. Brown
Technical Director

RAB:km
Enclosure

P.S. This letter is being sent to a selected group of Paint Industry Technical Executives. R.A.B.

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