

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

480 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DIVISION

August 20, 1945

SUBJECT: REOXYCATION OF
WHITE LEAD RESTRICTIONS

To Members Manufacturing White Lead:

Immediately after V-J Day, we began efforts to procure an easing of the restrictions on the use of white lead in WFB Order M-38, white lead having taken the brunt of the wartime curtailment in the use of lead.

On August 23, the following telegram was dispatched to Mr. J. A. Krug, Chairman, War Production Board, Washington, D. C. by our President, Mr. Crane:

"Urge cancellation or alteration of WFB Order M-38, so as to attain a prompt and equitable distribution to peacetime industry of available lead. Unless prompt relief furnished by such action, paint industry of United States will have to eliminate white lead from postwar paints and serious and possibly irreparable damage would result to one of the most important outlets for pig lead with resultant deterioration in quality of paint now urgently required for preservation of property long neglected. An adequate supply of lead paint will aid employment and is in the interest of the American home owning public. Unless lead required for war purposes, there should be no discrimination as to its availability for consuming industries."

A reply from Mr. R. C. Allen, Deputy Chairman, was received on August 29, as follows:

"Re your tel of August 23 to J. A. Krug, while government subsidies are being paid for the procurement of foreign lead and pending the final determination of the Government's postwar policy concerning such subsidies control of this metal will have to be maintained. Realizing the serious situation of the white lead industry immediate action is being taken to permit the use of lead for this industry on the basis of its 1944 use for the balance of 1945. Provided foreign lead continues to be available to the United States in approximately the same volume as heretofore and taking into consideration military outlays and our stockpile it may be possible to distribute lead more generously to civilian industries. A study of the distribution of lead for the fourth quarter is now under way."



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We believe an order will appear shortly permitting the white lead carbonate manufacturers to consume for the month of September a tonnage of pig lead equivalent to their consumption of lead in September, 1944, as Mr. Allen's telegram states.

Representations were made in person to the Lead Branch in Washington, suggesting that it would be more equitable if some base were selected other than 1944, as in 1944 consumption of lead by the white lead industry was the second lowest in history. Some pre-war peacetime pattern is preferable.

We believe that as a result of our representations, there is a good prospect that the amount of pig lead which may be converted during the last quarter of the current year to white lead will be increased by WPA above the September rate.

Very truly yours,



Secretary