

CHURCHILL
5900

Providing for Mine and Industrial Safety



CABLE ADDRESS
"MINSAP" PITTSBURGH

Mine Safety Appliances Co.

BRADDOCK, THOMAS AND MEADE STREETS

Pittsburgh 8, Pa.

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO

AIR MAIL

February 14, 1949.

M.S.A. Research Lab.
327 Craft Avenue
Pittsburgh (13), Pa.

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Manfred:

Replying to your letter of February 12th which was received today, regarding the use of paints containing lead for coating tanks and the like used for potable water. You state that you sent your communication to me owing to my membership on the "Lead Committee", A.P.H.A. I am not certain whether or not I am currently a member of that Committee. However, it makes little difference, as any official comment I would make as a member of that Committee would necessarily require clearance through the Committee. So regardless of all of officialdom, I presume you desire my comments as an individual at least. In studying the material you sent to me and also supplementing this with other knowledge, I am of the following opinions:-

1. That insofar as possible all questions relating to health hazards should be settled on the basis of facts and not on the basis of preferences and prejudices. Accordingly, I can take no other position than to agree with you that the question of hazards to health from the use of paints that contain lead for internal coatings of containers for potable water, such as storage tanks, should be settled on the basis of facts to show whether or not such coating contributes significant amounts of lead to the water.

2. Since paints or coatings that contain lead have been used for such purposes over many years without, to my knowledge, reported trouble from lead poisoning, it does not appear urgent that immediate termination of such practice be considered unless facts are produced to substantiate the need. This should provide reasonable time for scientific inquiry into the question.

Sincerely yours,

Will Yant

Director of Research and Development

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