

Cleveland

Research Admin.

Oakland #18

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Hazardous Heavy Metals
Forest Products/Furniture

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JAS:bf

We are painfully aware that many of our people are operating in a vacuum for lack of more specific instructions. The problem is one of no one knowing for certain all of the implications of the proposed regulations, extent of their enforcement, etc.

My comments which follow must be considered as temporary opinions and may change as we get a clearer interpretation of these regulations.

Our present thinking is that products shipped direct to customers in bulk and drums are not covered. There is no unanimity regarding B's.

1. Exterior Coatings

- a. Are we forbidden from manufacture or sale of high lead content products?

The answer is "No" with exceptions. If the product is packaged in a form that can be used in a household or is used on toys or articles intended for use by children - then, by December 31, 1972, the lead level must be down to .5% and by December 31, 1973, down to .05%. I think the key question here is what constitutes an article intended for use by children. This has not been interpreted. It conceivably could cover all items that can be used in and around a home.

- b. Is there any legislation pending to control the amount of lead in paint on prefabricated siding?

Again, it could be subject to definition of an article intended for use by children. The answer could well be "Yes".

- c. Must we discuss lead content with our customer?

It is my personal opinion that anybody using a paint product on an article that will find its way into a home should be made aware of the proposed regulations. One problem here is that we should adopt a consistent stance. Hopefully, within the next few days there will be sufficient clarification so that some sort of policy can be established.

2. Interior Coatings

You raise the question of wall paneling, kitchen cabinets, etc. I believe my comments above address themselves to this question.

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We are well aware of the inconsistencies in the proposed regulations regarding heavy metal content based on weight rather than area. It is my present opinion that this issue will not be clarified now that the .005 limitation based on total solids will hold.

Yes, there will be continuing dialogue with regulatory agencies on this whole subject.

At this point in time, I do not think we should be advising the Sales Department on what to or not to do. This should be a subject left to our Legal Department and Corporate Sales Management.

It is my current opinion, though I do not want to express it as final policy yet, that the lead content of surfaces within the home will be restricted to .005, and that very shortly, additional regulations will be promulgated covering many other heavy metals. Further, I would recommend that wherever possible we anticipate future laws and regulations and formulate to this end.


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HEM:AN

cc MMW AMW JTL

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