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Mr. C. B. Lewis,
Ethyl Corporation,
Chrysler Building,
New York City 17.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

For some time I have been aware of the increase in the use of liter cans of Ethyl Fluid, and although this is not a matter for great concern, it is my feeling that we should keep a sharp eye on it, not only to determine whether the increase is necessary, but also to make sure that the quantities handled in specific laboratories reach proportions that make it necessary or advisable to set up specific facilities for mixing.

I quite agree with you that in some places the use of specially designed mixing equipment is desirable. Each case should be considered on its merits, but when there is good reason for it, suitable equipment should be installed.

In my opinion, special types of mixing equipment justify the classification of the installation in the category of mixing plants. Once any equipment has been so classified it should be regarded, I think, in the same light as any other mixing plant from the point of view of safety and medical supervision. There may be an occasional instance in which this procedure would not be feasible or desirable, but I think this is a good criterion for making a sharp line of separation between laboratory activities and mixing plants.

I have frequently expressed myself with respect to our policy in dealing with the handling of Ethyl Fluid in laboratories. I have said that in my opinion, we should not intrude unduly into the affairs of customer companies. I think some of them would think that we were intruding if we set ourselves up to prescribe just what they do and how they do it in research and testing laboratories. Our only justification would be that the actual hazards of their work necessitated our supervision and intervention. This, I think, is scarcely a tenable position in most cases. Moreover, if we were to undertake to examine all of the men who work in laboratories in which any Ethyl Fluid is handled, and in which knock testing is done, we should be adding greatly

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to our work without any corresponding gain in the service of a useful purpose. I see no present reason for changing this general policy, but as indicated above, I do believe that any set-up involving the use of mixing equipment designed by ourselves, should be under our supervision for the protection of the personnel involved.

In the present instance and in any other instance that seemed to justify it, it would be well, I think, for the safety department to investigate the need for mixing equipment, and to work out mutually agreeable plans for the most satisfactory handling of the work. One of my associates can then look into the situation and make the necessary medical examination.

As you are well aware, the doctors have been entirely willing to give advice and also to make examinations of personnel whenever in their opinion the situation in any one of these laboratories justifies it. This policy will undoubtedly continue, and although it may result in a certain lack of uniformity in the handling of different situations, it will, I think, produce satisfactory results.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kenoe, M. D.

IAK ef

C. C. Drs. Kitzmiller
Heyroth
Sanders
Schradin

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