

CLEVELAND

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Chicago

Paint Research

Cleveland

COATINGS LAB

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H. E. Spitzer

Chicago Ordinance

Lead and Heavy Metal Paints

This morning I attended a meeting of the Chicago City Council Committee on Building and Zoning at which two proposed ordinances concerning paint were approved. These ordinances will be presented to the City Council tomorrow and probably will be adopted. I am attaching copies of each of these ordinances.

The first ordinance - Section 78-17.2 - concerns the banning of the sale, offering for sale, and use of any lead or heavy metal based paint. A lead based paint is defined as any paint containing more than 0.06% lead and a heavy metal based paint is any paint containing more than 0.03% in total of cadmium, arsenic, selenium, antimony, and mercury, or more than 1% soluble barium of the total barium present. This has become effective July 1, 1972 for all interior paints with the exception of varnishes, oil stains, floor and aerosol paints. On January 1, 1973 the exceptions are also banned. You will note that this does not include any paints for the exterior, not even wooden porch railings. You also will note that it does not include any paints to be used on the interior other than structural surfaces and fixtures on these surfaces.

The second ordinance - 100-29.3 - has to do with labeling. It will be necessary for us to label all paints which are offered for sale that contain more than 0.06% lead after June 30, 1972 with a front panel caution that states "WARNING - CONTAINS.....DANGEROUS FILM OF THIS SUBSTANCE MAY BE HARMFUL IF EATEN OR CHEWED. READ CAREFULLY CAUTIONS ON INSTRUCTION PANEL." Again the same exceptions are allowed until January 1, 1973. You will note that this means that we have to label all paints whether they are meant for exterior or for industrial use if they contain more than 0.06% lead. This ordinance does include paints designed for toys, furniture or any object accessible to children.

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