

Copy: Dr. Graham Edgar
Dr. R. A. Kehoe

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING AND TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE

MAIL ADDRESS: BOX 688, WILMINGTON, DEL.
FREIGHT ADDRESS: CARNEY'S POINT, N. J.
TELEPHONE: PENNSGROVE, N. J. 280, EXTENSION 213

December 3, 1936

Memorandum: Mr. O. B. Lewis

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of November 30, your Circular Letter No. W-131 to Division Managers in connection to tank cleaning instructions.

You state "in our opinion it is probably wholly unnecessary for repair men and welders to use air-line masks in their work, if the tank has been thoroughly cleaned of sludge and scale in advance".

It would seem to me preferable to definitely require welders and repair men to use air-line masks in their work. It is obvious that it might be unnecessary if the tank has been thoroughly cleaned; but how are you going to prove that? You are then leaving either with the safety men in the field or the refineries the decision as to whether the tank has been thoroughly cleaned, and this decision will be based on opinions that may or may not be correct. It would seem to me to be preferable to require the use of air-line masks in order to take no chances whatsoever.

In other words, what I am trying to point out is that I don't see how you can definitely determine whether a tank has been thoroughly cleaned and aired unless you run rather extensive air tests to determine definitely that there is no lead contamination and in the absence of any such comprehensive tests, use air masks and take no chances.

I also acknowledge with thanks receipt of copy of your letter of December 1 to Sinclair in connection to the conditions of the mixing plant at Parco, Wyoming. I think you have handled the situation most excellently. However, would it not be possible to go one step further and not make any more shipments to this plant until your safety man has given it a clean bill of health. You just say the word about holding up shipments and we will be governed accordingly until you are satisfied that the proper remedy has been effected.

J. H. Schaefer

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