

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

420 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Dr. Alex Stewart
Director of Research
National Lead Company
111 Broadway
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Stewart:

Further referring to the work being undertaken for us at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, you will recall that the questions raised with regard to possible hazards from the use of elastic products stabilized with lead compounds were of three main types, (1) those relative to erosion or skin irritation, sensitization and possibly absorption through the skin, (2) those concerning the use of such products in the manufacture of steel containers, and (3) those suggesting that aluminum might occur through impurities in the products themselves.

The first group we have eventually to answer satisfactorily by means of the data bearing on irritation, sensitization, and skin absorption tests, now being started at Cincinnati.

Whether actual hazards are involved or not, it is my opinion with regard to the second group that it is sound reasoning to discourage the use of lead stabilizers in the manufacture of steel containers.

The third group, on which examples are given in my statement, hardly call for scientific experimentation, first because of their apparent absurdity and secondly for the reason that the cost of such work would be out of all proportion to any conceivable benefits therefrom. More useful might be a statement by an impartial and impartial authority to the effect that any such work is without foundation.

Dr. J. A. Joyce has expressed to me his opinion that such a statement is warranted, but that it is not necessary to have any complete investigation as to the nature of the problem raised in the paragraph on lead in the statement. I have been much puzzled, I am sure, that it is not possible to make a statement of this nature without some basis of fact, and I am sure that any statement of this nature without such basis is without foundation.

Two Examples of
SUGGESTED LEAD POISONING HAZARDS
through Ingestion of
ARTICLES STABILIZED WITH LEAD COMPOUNDS

It has been suggested that lead stabilizers should not be used in the manufacture of such articles as vinyl plastic baby pants, the theory being that a child might chew up and swallow the garment in whole or in part, absorbing therefrom enough lead to cause plumbism.

It has been suggested that lead stabilizers should not be used in the manufacture of vinyl plastic floor coverings to use in homes, the theory being that child traffic could abrade the floor surface, producing a toxic dust which a crawling infant might pick from the floor, swallow and thus become poisoned.

Both above suggestions need too the data to be worthy of refutation based on scientific investigation.

U.S.