

June 27, 1935.

PATENT DIVISION

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

LEAD OXIDES & LEAD SILICA MIXTURES

We are considering taking over the exploitation in this country of a German process for the production of lead oxides and mixtures of lead and lead oxide with silica. Various features of this development are covered by German Patents 554,027 and 590,481 and we understand that corresponding U.S. applications have been filed.

The process used is briefly as follows:

Lead is melted in a suitable vessel. Sand is stirred into the molten lead, as a result of which the sand becomes coated with lead. Air is then admitted and agitation is continued until the desired degree of oxidation is attained. The sand serves as a dispersing agent for the lead and permits more uniform and rapid oxidation than is possible merely by passing the air through molten lead. The limits of oxidation are from lead powder containing 90% Pb and 10% PbO to complete oxidation to Pb_2O_3 , depending upon the purpose for which the material is to be used. After the oxidation is completed, the lead and/or lead oxide may be separated from the silica by screening, flotation or other suitable means. However, in the phase of the proposition in which we are particularly interested, no separation is employed, the mixture of silica and lead and lead oxide being used directly for the production of lead glasses, vitreous enamels or the like.

We would like you to make a search of active U.S. patents to determine possible infringements:

- (1) by the method of oxidation used
- (2) by the PbO-silica mixtures as a product, and
- (3) by the use of such products in the manufacture of lead glasses or enamels.

FOR INFORMATION - DO NOT FILE

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It appears that some of the broad claims of our Carveth patent 1,638,471 may be infringed by the process. This patent, of course, will not be a bar to our operations.

A representative of the German company controlling this development is to be here on Wednesday of next week to discuss the proposition. We realize that it will probably be impossible for you to make any extensive search in time to have a report here by Wednesday. However, we would appreciate very much having any information that you can give us by that date.

D. E. Stone
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