

National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association

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October 19, 1954

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TO ALL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT
FINISHES MANUFACTURERS:

Proposed New York City Labeling Regulations

The New York City Department of Health has under consideration a regulation requiring warning labels on products containing more than 1 percent of lead as metal (Pb) in a compound, or containing a compound of antimony, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, selenium or barium. The regulation will apply to ALL ENAMELS sold to toy manufacturers and to the general public. We are advised the regulation will exempt industrial maintenance paints, automotive refinishes, roof coatings, roof cements, marine paints, and all industrial product finishes except toy enamels.

The Association will have an opportunity to study the draft of the proposed regulation and suggest changes, if necessary, before it is submitted to the New York City Board of Health, October 29.

We work very closely with the New York City Department of Health in our Health-Education Program. At a recent meeting with Mr. Jerome Trichter, Assistant Commissioner, I found the Department had an exhibit of U. S.-made toys, such as a sand-pail shovel, small metal automobile, tractor, etc. I was astonished to learn they were finished with coatings containing up to 35 percent of lead.

In 1939, the Industrial Product Finishes manufacturing members of this Association adopted a policy to protect the health of children and all others who might come in contact with their products. These Association members were the first to sell toy manufacturers the idea that they should purchase only finishes which are harmless when chewed and swallowed by children.

The Industrial Product Finishes Steering Committee, on September 17, 1954, unanimously reaffirmed this policy. The Committee urged all concerned to take steps wherever necessary to advise our consumers of our long-established program of Health-Education and to renew their efforts to protect children and others from harmful effects of any product.

Will you please advise me whether or not your formulae for toys and children's furniture still follow our established policy.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Battle
President

JFB/emh

PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION

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