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NATIONAL PAINT, VARNISH
AND LACQUER ASSOCIATION

Progress Through Cooperation

COATINGS

1500 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, BOSTON, D. C. 20005

Vol. 23, No. 10, August 23, 1971

WARNING

AUG 25 1971

INTERIOR LEAD PAINT ALERT

We have just learned that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare plans to make a study to determine the amount of lead in interior paints. This study probably will be made by the National Bureau of Standards and will be similar to, but on a larger scale than, the study recently made by the New York City Bureau of Lead Poisoning Control.

In the New York study, samples of interior paints were picked up from paint stores in various parts of the city and analyzed for lead content. A surprising number were found to have more than 1% lead (in non-volatile content). (More than 1% lead has been prohibited by Section 173.13 of the New York City Health Code since December 1959.)

Today, more than a dozen other states and major cities have laws, similar to that of New York City, which prohibit the sale and/or use of more than 1% lead in interior paints. All but the most recent are contained in the NPVLA Labeling Guide—"Paint Industry Labeling Laws and Regulations."

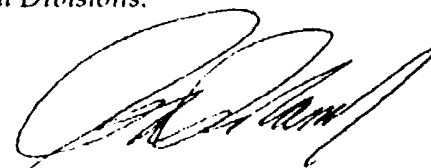
Furthermore, while implementing regulations have not yet been issued by HEW, it is the intent of the Lead Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (Public Law 91-695) to prohibit the use of lead above the 1% level in all

interior architectural paints. Thus, in the near future we can expect this 1% rule to be applied nationwide.

NPVLA STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION:

1. Keep the lead level below 1% if the product is intended for any type of interior use.
2. Label all paints which contain more than 1% lead in their non-volatile content. (See NPVLA Recommended Precautionary Labels No. 14, 15 and 16 and the suggested procedure for Labeling Products Tinted at Point of Sale on Page 59 of the NPVLA Labeling Guide.)
3. Do not recommend paints containing more than 1% lead in their non-volatile content for interior use (e.g. general purpose interior-exterior enamels) or imply by illustration or pictorial symbol that it might be used on bicycles, toys, or children's furniture.

For more details, contact the NPVLA Technical or Legal Divisions.



Robert A. Roland
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