

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING AND TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

J. H. SCHAEFER,
GENERAL MANAGER.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY
TO: CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK CITY

November 6, 1940

Dr. Willard Machle
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Eden & Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Machle:

Some time ago I took up with Dr. Kehoe the question of a man entering one of our Ethyl Fluid tank cars, EBAX-302, for the purpose of making repairs to the anchor rivet pan. Dr. Kehoe sanctioned the procedure of having a man enter the tank car provided he had protection by way of proper clothing and equipment. Meanwhile, we have been attempting to clean the car as thoroughly as possible and I am quoting herewith from our last progress report:

"As for progress in the cleaning of EBAX-302, the car with the anchor pan leak, I must say that the developments have been very slow. We are running into considerable difficulty in reducing the lead content of the vapors in the tank. The car was first cleaned mechanically by our normal vacuum procedure, and this was followed up by circulation of the inhibited acid. The air analysis after the acid wash treatment was equal to 0.158 milligrams of lead per cubic foot. This was actually higher than the analysis of 0.10 milligrams per cubic foot before the acid wash treatment. There has been considerable variation and inconsistency in the analytical results, and therefore I sometimes question the accuracy of the method. At any rate, after the acid wash treatment it was decided that our best procedure would be to follow up by aeration and this has been our latest method of reducing the lead content. We had one determination reported as 0.002 milligrams per cubic foot, but a check was reported as 0.011 milligrams after considerable aeration. I believe the tetraethyl lead area has a maximum approved specification of 0.002 milligrams of lead per cubic foot of air about the area. This indicates that apparently we are reducing the lead content to a point where consideration can be given to undertaking the repair work that will be required.

Our objective is to reduce the lead content to the point where it can not be detected by analysis. This will be a difficult thing to do. Furthermore, although we now have a temporary analysis showing a fairly low concentration of lead, I want to make sure that upon standing the concentration will not increase.

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Dr. Willard Machle

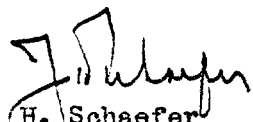
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Our next step is to have a meeting for discussion of progress made to date, and the desirable course of action to be followed. Since the duPont Company will probably be involved in the repair work, our meetings have included the presence of Messrs. Heuser, Maguire, Dr. Herndon and Dr. Plunkett."

I would appreciate your comments on this matter.

Very truly yours,


J. H. Schaefer

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