

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES

UNITED UNIONS BUILDING, 1750 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

OFFICE OF JOHN J. PECORARO, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION • (202) 873-1446

GLAZIERS AND
GLASS WORKERS
SIGN PAINTERS AND
SCENIC ARTISTS
CARPET AND LINOLEUM
PAINT MAKERS
and Allied Industrial Workers

February 12, 1974

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dear Members:

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mt. Sinai Hospital School of Medicine in New York has been cooperating with our Brotherhood in researching industrial-related diseases. He has informed us that, based on their research, there is now documentary evidence that polyvinyl chloride, used in some paint manufacturing processes, is the cause of a rare type of cancer.

A test on some employees in a southern paint company indicated that four of the employees tested had angiosarcoma of the liver. This is a very rare type of cancer. These men worked in the portion of the plant that involved the use of polyvinyl chloride.

At the request of Dr. Selikoff, based on the above information and in cooperation with our National Paint Makers' Conference, we are contacting those members who have worked or are working with polyvinyl chloride. (See attached questionnaire.) The questions are those suggested by Dr. Selikoff. Upon receipt and evaluation of the questions by Dr. Selikoff, I shall inform you of his analysis and the steps that will be taken.

Our Safety Committee Chairman, Painters' General Vice President Jack Cox, has approved a meeting of our Committee for some time in the latter part of March. At present, I am making the necessary arrangements and will notify you of the time and place.

Very truly,

John J. Pecoraro
Director of Legislation

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Traders, Amalgamated Local 1134, and others who are working with polyvinyl chloride have been exposed to a rare and fatal disease. This information was received from Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mt. Sinai Hospital School of Medicine in New York. Dr. Selikoff is a leading scientist in industrial-related diseases. This information was gathered after extensive research.

We request that you complete this questionnaire and return it as soon as possible to our Brotherhood office:
Attn: Mr. John Pecoraro, Director of Legislation
Painters & Allied Trades, United Unions Building
1750 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

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1. How many paint manufacturing plants are signatory to your agreement? _____
 2. How many of your members are employed there? _____
 3. How many members (percentage) have worked or are working with polyvinyl chloride?
_____ & _____ (average) how long?
 4. Are there any members who have worked or are working with polyvinyl chloride who are now under a doctor's care?

 5. Please give their names and addresses.
IMPORTANT: Supply this information only if they give you permission to do so.

 6. Do any of the above mentioned members agree to be examined, at no cost to them, at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City? List names, addresses and telephone numbers:

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