May 26, 1970

Mr. Norman Davis
1743M-18 R3
Gladwin, Michigan 48624

Dear Mr. Davis:

Your letter of May 7, 1970, concerning Lucite® acrylic lacquer, has been sent to me for reply.

Lucite® acrylic lacquer is a broad term which covers a series of products manufactured by Du Pont. Your letter states that about two hours after using the lacquer you feel lightheaded and have an upset stomach even though you wear a paint mask. The solvents used in Lucite® acrylic lacquers are generally ketones - 15-25%, esters - 10-20%, and substituted aromatic hydrocarbons - 40-50%. The substituted aromatic hydrocarbons can cause the symptoms you describe when inhaled in high concentrations.

It is possible that you are using a paint mask which removes particulate matter but not solvent vapors from the air, and that you are breathing high concentrations of solvent. I would suggest that you provide adequate ventilation to keep the solvent vapors at a minimum. In addition, I am enclosing a list of respiratory protective devices approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines of the Department of Interior. These masks will protect you from the paint solvents as well as the particulates.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

W. W. Miller
Toxicity Coordinator

WWM/dmp
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