



BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

September 18, 1958

Mr. G. M. Hammond, Manager  
Trade Sales  
National Lead Company  
Philadelphia Branch  
2607 East Cumberland Street  
Philadelphia 25, Pennsylvania

COPY TO: Dr. Schulze  
Mr. Couchman

Dear Mr. Hammond:

This is in reply to your letter to me of September 17, 1958.

Mr. Charles E. Couchman, Director of our Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, had a discussion with Mr. H. T. Schreyer on the matter of possible labeling for your Dutch Boy Paint for sale in Baltimore City, in relation to the new Baltimore City Ordinance No. 1504, Approved June 8, 1958, requiring special Baltimore City label for lead paint.

It is my impression that Mr. Schreyer and you and your group have been misinformed in regard to the requirements of the Baltimore City Ordinance. The reason I say this is that the proposed labeling on the back of your paint label as submitted with your letter does not conform with the Baltimore City Ordinance, a copy of which is enclosed for your information. You will see at the foot of page two the warning label that is required for sale of paint in Baltimore where lead is an ingredient. You will note that this is quite different from what you have on your sample label, and it would not be legal for you to sell Dutch Boy Paint in Baltimore with the label as printed on the sample you submit.

Other paint companies have met the Baltimore requirement, and it is my hope that New York City will be willing by Board of Health action to approve the use of the Baltimore label in New York City and we are taking steps to bring this about if possible.

The reason for the differences are important because the New York City focus and yours is on toys first and ours is on interior surfaces accessible to children, especially window sills. Second, your label and New York City refer to interior surfaces which might be chewed by children.

We have instances of lead poisoning in children where the lead paint was on the ceiling or on pipes suspended from and near to the ceiling where the scaling paint dropped to the floor and was consumed by children

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- 1 -

September 18, 1958

28

with subsequent lead poisoning, obviously surfaces which could never be chewed by children at such heights.

If there is further information you desire, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very truly yours,

*Huntington Williams, M.D.*  
Commissioner of Health

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Enclosures