

December 29, 1923.

Mr. Paul G. Blazer, Gen. Mgr.,
Ashland Refining Company,
Ashland, Ky.

Dear Mr. Blazer:

The ETHYL fluid mixing certificates issued by you show that 12 mixes were made in October and 3 in November. This means a mix about every fourth day.

Our Medical Department which, as you know, is directed by Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, feels that it is a matter of vital importance to reduce the hazard connected with the handling and mixing of ETHYL fluid to the very minimum possible, and that the necessity of handling a concentrated ETHYL fluid to the extent covered by the above number of monthly mixings is working against the spirit of our whole program to control the health hazards.

We, therefore, would request that you personally give your serious attention to the perfection of an arrangement whereby large quantities of gasoline can be mixed with ETHYL fluid, thereby reducing the number of mixings that are required. Dr. Kehoe does not want to set any particular arbitrary ruling on the number of mixings permitted each month but would rather leave it in the hands of the oil companies who handle ETHYL fluid to do everything possible to mix as large amounts as they are able at each operation. As a matter of fact, many of our companies have provided storage and other facilities so that they do not have to handle concentrated ETHYL fluid for mixing more than two or three times a month and, in fact, some of them only make one mix a month, or even less.

We realize this probably involves greater storage capacity being given to ETHYL fluid mixings, but the percentage of ETHYL fluid sales on the part of your company and, in fact, all of our customers is increasing and undoubtedly in the future you will require greater storage and if the step could be taken at this time so that the mixings can be immediately reduced to a minimum number, we do not think that this will unduly burden you.

We are writing to the executive officers of each of our companies in which this condition exists because we feel that they all appreciate the vital necessity of eliminating every possible health hazard and we would thank you to please go into this matter very carefully and advise us what you can do to comply with our wishes.

Very truly yours,