



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20204

April 13, 1970

Mr. Jule Gordon, Chairman
The Committee of the Progressive
Hair Dye Industry
Room 510-11
60 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Gordon:

We regret the delay in replying to your letter of February 3, 1970.

The Food and Drug Administration, as part of its continuing program, has recently started some work on the skin penetration of lead. The industry will be kept advised of any significant developments in our work.

We believed it was understood at our conference on May 5, 1969 that no Food and Drug Administration commitments could be made at that time as to the safety of lead hair dyes or the adequacy of Dr. Kahoe's work as a support of safety of such products.

We also stated we would evaluate safety upon receipt of a petition and advise the petitioner if further information is needed. Our evaluation of safety at that time will be dependant upon all information and data available whether compiled by the petitioner or the Food and Drug Administration.

Sincerely yours,)


John H. Jones, Acting Director
Division of Colors and Cosmetics
Office of Foods and Nutritional Sciences

February 3, 1970

Kenneth A. Freeman, PhD
Director of the Division of Color
Certification and Evaluation
Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare
Food & Drug Administration
Washington, D.C. 20204

Dear Dr. Freeman:

You will recall that Mr. Ivan Combe and I, along with Dr. Kehoe, met with members of your department on May 5, 1969 to discuss the report on the research of Dr. Kehoe relating to possible absorption of lead in the use of lead acetate hair dyes.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there appeared to be no unanswered questions about Dr. Kehoe's work and the conclusions he drew from it, and we were advised as to how to proceed with the preparation of a Petition. Accordingly, we have set the wheels in motion for our industry group to file such a Petition.

Now we have just learned from a source in the Toilet Goods Association that in meetings held in July and December, a member of the FDA scientific staff indicated that an FDA sponsored study of lead acetate dyes for possible absorption was being undertaken.

Since our research by a man of Dr. Kehoe's stature has been costly for a group of small volume manufacturers, and the preparation of a Petition and the filing thereof involved considerable added expense, we naturally would like to be informed of any developments in the thinking of your people which might affect our position.

I think you know that we stand ready to cooperate with you and your staff in every way possible, as we have in the past, and we are grateful for the helpful consideration which we have received.

We shall look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRESSIVE
HAIR DYE INDUSTRY

JULE GORDON
Chairman

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