

April 21, 1931

Mr. A. R. Newton, Jr.,
Sterling Oil Company,
Emlenton, Pa.

Dear Mr. Newton:

Your letter of April 16 has been brought to my attention by Mr. Mittnacht of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation.

In the handling of ETHYL fluid indoors in quantities of any magnitude, it is important that every precaution be taken against the inhalation of vapors. Any employees who are exposed to such vapors over a period of time are in danger of absorbing lead, with possible consequences of chronic lead poisoning. We have felt it necessary, therefore, to require a manner of handling this material indoors which avoids the possibility of either skin contact or inhalation. To this end the Corporation has supplied a glass burette arrangement to be properly hooked up with a small container of Fluid in order to supply a few c.c. of Fluid at a time for mixing gasoline in knock testing. We have felt it necessary wherever these pieces of equipment are handled, to have them installed in a hood so that at the time they are being used a stream of air is continually passing through drawing the vapors away from the operator. The hood should be supplied with a suction fan so as actually to maintain a considerable stream of air. The capacity of the fan will depend, of course, upon the size of the hood. Only a small hood is required for this purpose, and if the ordinary laboratory hood is available with a fan to supply a considerable suction across the face of the hood, such an arrangement will be entirely satisfactory.

In the course of the next few weeks one of my assistants will be at Emlenton in order to examine the men who are doing the mixing of Ethyl Gasoline. I will bring your letter to his attention. I should appreciate it if you would make it possible for him to see the laboratory conditions under which knock testing is being done, in order that he may make a proper estimate of the hazard involved and in order that he may make suitable suggestions for the correction of any situation which may not be satisfactory. Meantime I cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity for seeing to it that in any situation in which ETHYL fluid is handled the vapors be completely carried away so as not to be inhaled by the operator.

Very truly yours,

RAK:EJ

Robt. A. Kehoe, M.D.

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