

August 12, 1950

Mr. L. F. Wagner,  
Chief Chemist,  
The Glidden Company,  
Reading, Penn.

Dear Mr. Wagner:

In reply to your letter of August 3, 1950, I may say that our work consists primarily in making toxicological investigations of compounds used in industry. We employ our facilities for analytical work only to the extent that is necessary for furthering our toxicological work. In the course of our work we have had frequent occasion to advise manufacturers of food containers as to the steps to be taken in order that they may be able to furnish necessary information as to the toxicity of plasticizers for food wrappers, ingredients of lacquers for food containers, etc. We usually suggest that they secure information in their own or another chemical laboratory as to whether or not the material in question enters into food kept in contact with coating containing it. They then present their evidence to the Food and Drug Administration directly, and, if they agree that none is present in the food, its use may be approved.

If, however, the chemical determinations should prove that the product enters the food in determinable concentrations, we may then undertake long-term experiments in which the material in question is added in three or four known concentrations to all of the food furnished respective groups of rats and dogs. The results of such experiments supply evidence upon which the Food and Drug Administration may base their conclusions as to whether the amounts found in the food in tests conducted elsewhere will be deleterious.

Because our analytical staff is at present overburdened with work, we are unable to undertake the chemical portion of such investigations. If, however, you secure evidence elsewhere that the material you have under consideration does enter food stuffs, we should be glad to discuss with you the question of undertaking the toxicological investigation of the material.

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Mr. L. F. Wagner

August 12, 1950

Your impression that we have performed chemical work on steel containers with baked organic coatings probably has its basis in the fact that some years ago we did a little work of the sort you mention at a time when we were designing experimental chambers in which to confine animals in testing the toxicity of vapors at atmospheric contaminants.

Yours very truly,

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Francis F. Heyroth, M.D.  
Assistant Director

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