

National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association

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September 14, 1954

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TO MEMBERS OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS:

Precautionary Labeling

The enclosed is the consensus of the Executive Committee's vote taken on the recommendations concerning precautionary labels made by the Subcommittee on Model Labeling.

Certain revisions in Group II were made to accommodate suggestions made by representatives of the Chicago and New York Boards of Health when the original recommendations were discussed with them by our New York and Chicago subcommittee members.

Every one is convinced we must have some type of precautionary label on our products containing more than 1% of lead. However, we have been able to get some concessions. Dr. Trichter stated that paints containing less than 1% of lead can be labeled in any manner the industry chooses. He is agreeable to substituting the word "harmful" in place of either "poison" or "poisonous". He is also willing to exclude industrial finishes, roof coatings, auto refinishing lacquers and enamels, and heavy marine paints. Dr. Trichter's efforts are directed at trade sales items sold to consumers and painters.

Through Mr. Markin we were able to persuade the New York Board of Health to postpone consideration of proposed labeling until October 8. The Model Labeling Subcommittee will meet during the week of September 27 to prepare our presentation to the Board of Health conforming to the above, to which Dr. Trichter has practically agreed.

With New York and Chicago practically together on this, we will have established precedence for convincing other states to adopt the same type of labeling, if the necessity arises.

I would appreciate receiving, prior to September 27, any suggestions you have to present to the Model Labeling Subcommittee for inclusion in our presentation.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Battle
President

JFB:ms
enclosure

PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION CONFIRMING REPORT OF
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MODEL LABELING CONCERN-
ING PRECAUTIONARY LABELS**

Precautionary labeling for paints should be applied to groups as indicated:

GROUP I - Products containing a solvent flashing below 150°F. and having
not more than 1 percent of lead.

Flash Point
above 80°F.

Caution! Combustible

Keep away from heat and open flame. Keep container
closed when not in use. Use with adequate ventilation.
Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Avoid
prolonged breathing of vapor or spray mist.

Flash Point
above 20°F.
to 80°F., in-
clusive

Warning! Flammable

Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Keep
container closed when not in use. Use with adequate
ventilation. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact
with skin. Avoid prolonged breathing of vapor or
spray mist.

Flash Point
20°F. or below

Danger! Extremely Flammable

Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Keep
container closed when not in use. Use with adequate
ventilation. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with
skin. Avoid prolonged breathing of vapor or spray mist.

- (a) "Do not take internally" may be omitted from Group I except in the case
of clear liquids, such as thinners. Regardless of flash point, these
clear liquids should bear appropriate Group I label plus warning "Do

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not take internally", because clear liquids may be attractive nuisances or mistaken for beverages.

- (b) Flash point determinations, in all cases, refer to Tag Open Cup Method, as specified in ASTM Method D 1314-54T.
- (c) Products containing "odorless" solvents bear appropriate Group I labels with the warning "Use with adequate ventilation" prominently displayed in type, two points larger than the type used for the caution statement.

GROUP II - Products of more than 1 percent lead compound containing solvents of following flash points:

Flash Point
above 80°F.

Warning: Combustible and Harmful
Contains More Than 1% Lead Compound

Keep away from heat and open flame. Harmful if eaten.
Do not apply to surfaces which might be chewed by children. Keep away from feed and food products. Keep container closed when not in use. Use with adequate ventilation. Avoid breathing vapor or spray mist. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Wash thoroughly after handling and before eating or smoking.

Flash Point
above 20°F.
to 80°F.

Warning: Flammable and Harmful
Contains More Than 1% Lead Compound

Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Harmful if eaten. Do not apply to surfaces which might be chewed by children. Keep away from feed and food products. Keep container closed when not in use. Use with adequate ventilation. Avoid breathing vapor or spray mist. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Wash thoroughly after handling and before eating or smoking.

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Flash Point
20°F. or
Below

Danger! Extremely Flammable and Harmful
Contains More Than 1% Lead Compound

Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Harmful if eaten. Do not apply to surfaces which might be chewed by children. Keep away from feed and food products. keep container closed when not in use. Use with adequate ventilation. Avoid breathing vapor or spray mist. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Wash thoroughly after handling and before eating or smoking.

(a) The percent of lead is determined as Pb (Lead Metal) on the solids of the paint.

GROUP III - Products containing significant amounts of compounds other than lead and solvent which may be harmful.

When harmful substances, other than lead, are used in paint, due to formulation variables, it is impossible to establish a general warning label. The paint manufacturer is cautioned to alert himself to such hazards and use an appropriate precautionary label.

Extra vigilance should be the rule in labeling harmful Group III products and they should not be sold for children's furniture and toys. Labeling of Group III products containing hazardous chemicals be guided by MCA Manual L-1 Warning Labels applying to those particular chemicals.

GROUP IV - Paint and Varnish Removers

A. Non-Flammable Removers, such as specified in Fed. Spec. TT-R 251C, Type II. Such removers contain substantial amounts of Methylene Chloride.

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CAUTION!

Contains Methylene Chloride

Use with adequate ventilation. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of vapor. Do not take internally.

- B. Flammable Removers, such as specified in Fed. Spec. TT-R 251C, Type I. Such removers contain substantial amounts of benzol.

DANGER! EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE

VAPOR HARMFUL - POISON

Contains Benzol

Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Keep container closed. Use only with adequate ventilation.

Avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of vapor. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin.

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