

CC: S. R. Miller
H. Pappas
T. R. Matthews
E. L. Grimm, Legal Dept.
C. D. Smith

Wilmington, Delaware
May 10, 1973

R. E. AITKEN
P. J. GRUNWALD
D. L. HERNDON
S. E. LEIGHTON - SOUTHFIELD

LEAD CONTAINING PAINTS

An Industrial Finishes customer has been cited by OSHA because the concentration of lead in his spray booth exceeded the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of 0.2 mg/m^3 of air. The customer was spraying a paint that contained over 18% lead (by weight of solids) at the time of measurement and apparently had several spraymen working on each side of the equipment being painted. There was reportedly an excessive amount of airborne paint in the booth.

While the above situation may be unusual, we have recommended that Industrial Finishes advise its other customers using leaded paints under similar conditions that greater control may be necessary. Measurements may be needed to confirm the lead concentration in the workers' breathing zone. Changes in spray booth air flow and/or different protective equipment may be needed.

Employee exposure to spray mists in booths used in conformance with good operating techniques and OSHA-specified air flows may be within safe limits. C. D. Smith is making an investigation of lead and solvent concentration in typical spray booths during normal operations. Upon completion of this study (about one month) we will advise you if it appears that other customers should make detailed checks of their spray booths to determine whether they are in compliance with OSHA regulations.

E. E. SWAIN, JR.
TOXICITY COORDINATOR

RES/bn

N38293