

February 23, 1973

Mr. R. M. Baker  
General Motors Corp.  
Terex Division  
Hudson, Ohio 44236

Dear Mr. Baker:

Mr. C. M. Harmuth has asked me to write to you concerning possible toxicological problems involved with welding metals coated with lead-containing paint.

Without any specific knowledge of your operations, it is, of course, difficult to appraise the hazard exposure of your employees. As you know, paint such as ours containing lead chromate have been used for years without problems. However, there is a potential hazard in welding painted metals which should be considered. Toxic metals contained in the paint, such as lead and chromium, could be vaporized and in the absence of adequate ventilation could be inhaled. The Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for lead (inorganic compounds, fumes and dusts) is 0.15 mg./M<sup>3</sup> of air (American Conference of Governmental and Industrial Hygienists - intended changes 1972, pg. 34). You should assure yourself that this TLV (and others that may be applicable) is not exceeded in the welder's breathing zone.

There are also governmental regulations to be considered. Your attention is directed to the Federal Safety and Health Regulations for construction (Esp. Part 1926.356) and OSHA regulations (Esp. Part 1910.252).

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- 2 -

In view of the above, we urge you to consult with your own Industrial Hygiene Department for assistance in determining what precautions are needed for your particular situation. Our industrial hygienist has suggested that you contact Mr. V. J. Castrop in Warren, Michigan (313) 575-2791.

I hope that this has been of some help to you. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Very truly yours, .

E. E. Swain, Jr.  
Toxicity Coordinator

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