

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Civil Aeronautics Administration  
Washington 25

February 19, 1948

Surgeon General  
U. S. Public Health Service  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This Service has been requested to indicate its decision as to the acceptability of the proposal to increase the tetraethyl lead content of aviation gasoline from 3.0 cc to 4.6 cc for commercial aircraft. The concern of the Medical Service, of course, is restricted to consideration of the possible increase in toxicological hazard with the increase in tetraethyl lead.

A survey of literature has failed to reveal any reports giving experimental data relating hazard to increases in the lead content within this range. While theoretical considerations would not indicate that such an increase would significantly increase hazard provided there was strict adherence to well-established safe practice in handling the gasoline, this Service is desirous of obtaining an authoritative statement on this subject.

It is requested that the Public Health Service advise the Medical Service of Safety Regulation of any directly pertinent data and express the views of the Public Health Service as to the possible increase in hazard which might result from increasing the concentration of tetraethyl lead within the range specified.

It is understood that the U. S. Department of the Air Force and the U. S. Navy have had a considerable background of experience in using aviation gasoline containing 4.5 cc of the tetraethyl lead. Inquiries are being directed to the industrial hygiene departments of these armed services to determine whether there is any statistical evidence available on the toxicological effect of the aviation gasoline used by the armed forces.

Very truly yours,

/s/

W. R. Stovall, M. D.  
Director, Aviation Medical Service

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