

December 13, 1932

Mr. A. E. Mittnacht
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Mittnacht:

I have considered the contents of your letter of December 5th in regard to the issuance of another circular covering specifically the cleaning of Ethyl tank cars. I do not see any particular point in the issuance of a special bulletin but I feel that we should be willing to comply with the wishes of the Bureau of Explosives in any such matter. I quite agree with you in believing that the possibilities of danger are provided against in the regulations covering the cleaning of ordinary tank cars. However the use of welding equipment inside any such tank car is attended by a certain danger. Our previous experience leads me to believe that small amounts of lead may be found deposited in the scale on the inside of the tank car, even after the most satisfactory cleaning. If this is the case, the use of a torch on such a surface will produce volatile lead compounds which will be similar to those produced by cutting up metal plates which have painted surfaces. It is true that the amount of lead should not be and probably will not be great. Nevertheless I should conceive of it as desirable to wear an air mask during such a welding operation in order to avoid the inhalation of lead vapors.

If there is anything further which you wish me to do in this connection, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

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