



MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD
Y
ASISTENCIA SOCIAL

DIRECCION DE SALUD PUBLICA

División de Ingeniería Sanitaria

Sección de Higiene Industrial

Caracas, November 13, 1960

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Cincinnati 19, Ohio.-

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

As you probably know, the addition of tetraethyl-lead is regulated by law in Venezuela. One of the big oil companies has requested officially from the Ministry of Health the modification of this law in order to be able to increase the amount of TEL in gasoline, from three to four cubic centimeters per gallon. They are also asking that other leaded anti-knock additives (probably tetramethyl-lead) be permitted. Since they did not mention this compound specifically, they are asking for a regulation which should specify the maximum amount of additive to be put into the gasoline, based on the lead content of these chemicals.

This request gives rise to several questions that should be thoroughly studied before answering:

- a) Should the increase of TEL be permitted?
- b) How should the use of TML be regulated?
- c) What maximum should be stated for the TML?
- d) Can all the leaded additives for gasoline be regulated as a group or should each substance be treated separately?
- e) What maximum should be stated if a mixture of TEL and TML, or other leaded additives is used?

For answering the first question we have the Public Health Service Publication No 712 which was prepared in 1959 by an Advisory Committee on TEL. But for the rest of the questions we only have the feeling how the answer should be. Since our office of Industrial Hygiene has to prepare the modification of the law, we would like to know more about the subject. Could you please be so kind as to advise us on this matter and also let us know where to find the necessary literature to back up our modification project. Perhaps you could get in touch with the people of the Ethyl Corp. and of the E.I. du Pont de Nemours Co., and ask them to send us the necessary printed material.

We appreciate very much your expert advice in this matter, and look forward to your reply.

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