

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

60 EAST 42ND STREET

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LEAD HYGIENE and
SAFETY BULLETIN

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To the Members of the Lead Industries Association:

THRESHOLD LIMIT FOR LEAD GOES UP

Two authorities, the American Standards Association and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, are responsible for setting the generally accepted "threshold limits" of atmospheric contaminants to which workers in this country may be safely exposed. The work of the A.S.A. committee, which includes exhaustive consideration of all aspects of a given hazard, is of necessity confined to a relatively small number of the more importantly harmful contaminants, while that of the governmental group has now set such limits on a total of 240 gases, vapors, dusts, fumes and mists, and tentative limits on 31 more.

As has been stated, an A.S.A. subcommittee of which the undersigned is chairman has proposed increasing the long-accepted 0.15 threshold limit for lead to 0.2 milligrams per cubic meter of air, and has under consideration even higher limits for certain of the less soluble lead compounds. With the publication of their "Threshold Limit Values for 1957" in the current (September) issue of the A.M.A. Archives of Industrial Health, the Governmental Industrial Hygienists have accepted the increase proposed by the A.S.A. group, and the 0.2 mg./m³ figure now becomes the official governmental standard.

The benefit to industrial management of this 33 1/3% increase is too obvious to dwell upon. Further relief from undue regulation is to be hoped for as the work of the A.S.A. subcommittee is continued.

Manfred Bowditch

Manfred Bowditch
Director of Health and Safety

