

Lead Industries Association

60 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

April 3, 1959

Robert A. Mahoe, M. D.,
Director
Mettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

You will recall my letter of March 12th, our subsequent talks in Chicago, and my letter of March 13th, all relative to the possibility of our financing some studies on the relative solubilities and consequent toxicities of such lead compounds as the chromate, sulfide and silicate.

I judge from the absence of a reply to the letter that there is little likelihood of your turning up here for a talk with us prior to our meeting in Chicago on April 21st.

Now has come from Imperial Color the letter of which a copy is herewith, obviously tying in closely with what we have discussed. I hope you will give us the benefit of your comments on it.

Sincerely,



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enclosure

Imperial Color Chemical & Paper Corp.

GLENS FALLS, N.Y.

April 1, 1959

Mr. R. L. Ziegfeld, Secretary
Lead Industries Association
60 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ziegfeld:-

Thank you for your letter of March 20th regarding the question of protecting the use of lead in color pigments from what we feel are unjustified restrictions. Your letter raises the question that the chromium radical is often considered contributory and a possible source of cancer. It is true that the basic chrome chemical producing industry has been investigated along the lines you mention, but the same thing is not true of the chrome chemical consuming industries. Actually, there is considerable question about the hazards of chromium toxicity at this source, but when the chromium has been converted to the chromate form, I believe you will find very little to justify any stigma on this chromium compound.

We are one of the basic producers of chrome chemicals, and probably the largest consumer in the world, and although we have handled millions and millions of pounds of chromium in the form of Lead Chromate, we have never had a single case of cancer traceable to Lead Chromate exposure. If this were not enough proof, we have also never heard of a case in the plant of any of our customers for the Lead Chromate pigments, and I am sure that with the large exposure the workmen would get at this point, that if it were a severe hazard, we would have heard of it.

We know that certain chrome producing plants have had a bad experience, and that was the reason for the investigation, but the results have indicated that there is some intermediate form in the producing of a chrome chemical not in the use of it, which seems to be at fault, but for some reason or other our process for producing chrome chemicals does not seem to present the hazard, even at this point, that some other producers seem to have. It is this point which has been investigated, and to my knowledge no definite conclusions have been drawn.

It is a far cry from the concentrated exposure that our workmen get, and our customers' workmen get, to the exposure of the user who applies a paint film to some surface. I believe that many

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- 2 -

Mr. R. L. Ziegfeld, Secretary
Lead Industries Association

so-called cases of lead poisoning may have occurred with more soluble forms of lead pigments, but even in such cases I think it is possible that conclusions were drawn, which had they been investigated carefully by an Association such as yours, may have been controverted.

Yours very truly,
IMPERIAL COLOR CHEMICAL & PAPER CORP.

S. L. Karpeles
S. L. Karpeles
General Manager
Pigment Color Division

SLX: AEG

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