

"NORWOOD"

BRAND

TO DUPLICATE THIS FOLDER ORDER

Globe-Wernicke

NO. 91-1/3

MADE IN U. S. A.

French Operations - Ethyl S.A.
Thenault - Dacquin - Roffey

KE 0010019

N29744

Room 527
Paris
France

Dear Mr. Thenault:

The question raised in your letter of September 23rd is one on which we have very little information from direct observation. However it may be said, categorically, that the quantity of tetraethyl lead which occurs in lubricating oil as a consequence of engine operation is too small to be of any significance from the point of view of skin absorption. Thus the hazards of contact with such lubricating oil involve

The repair of engines with quantities of lead deposits within them, (in the case of which there is not without some hypothetical hazard. It is entirely possible that if workmen were engaged continuously in scraping the carbon out of engines in a dry state, there would be some exposure to dust which has not been encountered in any situations in which the exposure is hazardous, and in general this work is not continuous enough to result in significant absorption. Lead occurs in the carbon deposits in the form of lead bromide, sulphate and oxide. Under ordinary conditions the removal of carbon does not give rise to much dust. Divided dusts and the exposure, unless continued for weeks and months, may be expected to be insignificant. Where such work is going on continuously, I should consider it wise to remove the carbon in such a way as not to give rise to dusts. This can be done by spraying with oil on oiled surfaces from which dust will not rise. I should regard this as the simplest precautionary measure.

The reason this point has not been dealt with in any of our articles is that it has arisen as a practical matter. As you know, we have studied garage mechanics who do all kinds of work on engines, without finding any evidence of any lead absorption. Even in the most severe and prolonged exposure to dust from carbon in motors, the hazard is not be great, and one would not expect any danger.

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even after months or years of exposure. I think you should realize that here the hazard is not very great.

I have written Mr. Bevan a letter calling attention to your report of July 16th inspection of Saint-Ouen refinery of Standard des Petroles. He will undoubtedly call your attention to my comments, but I may augment them by calling attention to the fact that we are not willing to use the use of more than one group of men at any plant, since to do this is to reduce the exposure at the plant by purely artificial means. In our opinion no plant is adequate in size and capacity unless it can maintain its work without exceeding the permitted limits of mixing operations. Where this frequency is exceeded, you should look into the facilities for mixing and what is the matter and recommend the necessary changes. Usually, I believe, it will be found that storage facilities are not adequate.

Dr. Machle calls my attention to the fact that you did not have copies of two reports of ours which we felt you should have in your office for the information of persons who might request them. Therefore I am sending you under separate cover two copies of "An Appraisal of the Lead Hazards Associated with the Distribution and Use of Gasoline Containing Tetraethyl Lead. Part I", and half a dozen copies of our report "The Occupational Lead Exposure of Men Engaged in the Production of Tetraethyl Lead with Gasoline".

Very truly yours

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehring

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