



ABEX INDUSTRIAL, S. A.

August 9, 1974

Abex Corporation
Industrial Hygiene & Loss Prevention
4550 W 25th. St.
Chicago Ill. 60623
U.S.A.

Att'n C.C. Blackwell, Jr. M.D.
Director

Dear Doctor:

In Mexico lead compounds are widely used in ceramic glazes to achieve a smooth, lustrous surface resistant to high and low temperatures. When properly applied these glazes are harmless. But handcrafted and "folk" pottery do not always follow the exacting standard of commercial manufacturers.

Thus if pottery of this type is not cured long enough at high temperatures, the glazes fails to seal completely. When acid, such as orange juice, is poured into a poorly glazed pitcher the lead leaches into the juice.

Defective pottery varies greatly in the amount of lead it gives off ranging from insignificant traces to dangerous doses.

Because such "folk" pottery is used in Mexico all new workers and all personnel have medicals with particular emphasis on the degree of lead poison in their system.

During the past two years we have expanded our facilities in Mexico and at the same time we have noted the lead content increasing in certain personnel.

To confirm that our expanded dust control systems meet your medical standards and to avoid medical problems, I request that expert technicians from your office come to Mexico to inspect our facilities and make recommendations - - - -

To make sure that the "lead" problem is neither generated nor added to by working in our plant.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated, Thanks "Dr."

cc: Messrs: G.L. Romine
D.K. Rennie


G.D. Connolly

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