

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

60 East 42nd Street

New York 17, N. Y.

June 4, 1959

Dr. H. B. Elkins
Mr. W. G. Hazard
Dr. R. A. Kehoe
Dr. S. S. Pinto
Dr. H. E. Stokinger

I sent you recently a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Lyman P. Hunter under date of May 15th.

Herewith, as of ancillary interest, is a copy of Dr. J. H. Foulger's reply to an apparently similar letter from Mr. Hunter to Mr. E. H. Pohl of the duPont Company.

MB:m

cc: Dr. H. H. Schrenk

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DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

May 28, 1959

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lyman P. Hunter, Vice President
Bennett's
65 West First South Street
Salt Lake City 10, Utah

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Your letter of May 12, addressed to Mr. Robert H. Pohl of our Pigments Department, has been referred to me for reply.

By pure coincidence this letter was handed to me at the same time that I received a copy of yours of May 15 to Mr. Manfred Bowditch of the Lead Industries Association, both letters dealing with the same problem, namely, lead chromate in paints.

This is a problem which requires much further study before we come to any definite opinion.

While, from the chemical point-of-view, there is a pronounced difference between the solubility of lead chromate and such lead salts as the basic carbonate and the acetate, nevertheless, this purely chemical picture might not apply if these compounds enter the human body.

It is well known that many insoluble compounds, for instance silica and asbestos, can enter the body and remain there for considerable periods of time, apparently without effect. Yet the body tissues can act upon them slowly and either convert them into a hazardous form, or liberate other hazardous compounds from them. There has, as yet, been no adequate investigation of lead chromate and similar "insoluble" lead salts to prove that this cannot occur. In particular, there has been no study made which we could use to combat the claim that lead chromate pigments should be considered as similar to other lead compounds in applications of warnings against use of products containing them for the painting of interiors, or toys, or furniture which young children might chew.

I am a co-member with Mr. Bowditch of the subcommittee of the Z-66 Committee of the American Standards Association, which wrote the original standard for the labeling of lead paints containing more

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Mr. Hunter

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than one per cent lead. We have given continuous consideration to the problem of lead chromate but, unfortunately, in the absence of adequate information we do not feel that we can advocate a specific modification of the standard at the present time.

Yours sincerely,

John H. Foulger, M.D.
Medical Adviser -
Toxicology and Forensic Medicine

JH7/cmb
cc: H. C. Ballard

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