

National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association

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DR. ROBERT A. KEHOE
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Once again I write to you for help, this time in connection with the new Maryland Toxic Finishes Law (E.B. 102, June 1, 1949) which states in part:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell or offer to sell, any toy or plaything, including children's furniture, decorated or covered with paint or any other material containing lead or other substance of a poisonous nature, from contact with which children may be injuriously affected, unless such article shall contain a label affixed thereto stating in clear and unambiguous language that the said paint, or other material contains lead or other substance of a poisonous nature."

Our industry is faced with the proper interpretation of this law, the crux of which may lie in the underlined phrase. Unfortunately, no state administrative agency has been established to which we can turn for statements of policy or authentic information on tolerances. It seems that each case will depend on the whim of a court or jury.

Our intention is to locate, if possible, authoritative estimates of single-dose, ingestion tolerances for small children. The list of potentially toxic materials that may find their way into paint and related products is undoubtedly large, but as a beginning we would like to be able to suggest tolerances for bright colored pigments based on lead, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, antimony, mercury, barium, iron (Prussian) blue and organic toners.

We would also appreciate a reprint of your publication "Experimental Studies on the Ingestion of Lead Compounds", and any other information that will help us to advise our anxious members.

Very truly yours,

Mark W. Westgate
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