

C O P Y

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

In replying
Address The Surgeon General
U.S. Public Health Service
IH-C

March 10, 1948

Dr. W. R. Stovall
Director, Aviation Medical Service
Civil Aeronautics Administration
Department of Commerce
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Stovall:

Your letter of February 19, requesting an opinion as to the advisability of increasing the tetraethyl lead content of aviation gasoline from 3.0 cc. to 4.6 cc. for commercial aircraft, has been given consideration.

As early as August 7, 1934, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service in a letter to the President of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation expressed no objection to the use of 4.5 cc. tetraethyl lead per U.S. gallon of gasoline for aviation purposes. The letter further stated that "the Public Health Service can see no objection to the above proposal, provided the recommended precautions in regard to ethyl gasoline are observed (as given in Public Health Service Bulletin No. 163) covering the mixing and marketing of ethyl gasoline."

The proposal to increase the content of tetraethyl lead from 4.5 cc. to 4.6 cc. should have no effect on the general health and meets with my approval, provided, of course, there is strict adherence to the established safe practices for the handling of this gasoline. So far as the records of this Service are concerned, there have been no cases of illness reported to this Service from the use of this concentration (4.5 cc.) since the opinion expressed in 1934.

In regard to advising the Medical Service of Safety Regulation, I shall be very glad to do so if you will submit more information as to just whom this should go to and the address.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Thomas Parran

Surgeon General

JCT:mlt
cc: Dr. G. H. Gehrman
Mr. R. L. Shea

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