1961 No. 1271

FACTORIES

The Lead Paint (Prescribed Leaflet) Order, 1961

Made - - - -	*4th July*, 1961
Coming into Operation	*17th July*, 1961

The Minister of Labour in pursuance of paragraph (*a*) of Regulation 7 of the Lead Paint Regulations, 1927(a), hereby prescribes for the purposes of the said paragraph (*a*) of that Regulation the leaflet containing special health instructions as to the use of paint.

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Lead Paint (Prescribed Leaflet) Order, 1961, and shall come into operation on the 17th day of July, 1961.

(2) The Order dated the 8th July, 1957, made by the Minister of Labour in pursuance of the said paragraph (*a*) of Regulation 7 prescribing the leaflet containing special health instructions as to the use of paint, shall cease to have effect.

2. The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if this Order and the Order hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

3. The leaflet for the purposes of the said paragraph (*a*) of Regulation 7 shall be in the form set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Signed by order of the Minister of Labour this 4th day of July, 1961.

Alan Green,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Labour.

(a) S.R. & O. 1927/847 (Rev. VII, p. 476: 1927, p. 441). (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

SCHEDULE Article 3

LEAD PAINT REGULATIONS, 1927 Form 394

S.R. & O. 1927 No. 847

Leaflet prescribed by the Minister of Labour for the purposes of Regulation 7 (*a*)

PAINTER'S COLIC

What it is

The symptoms of lead poisoning in the painter are usually colic (griping pains in the abdomen) and constipation. Another sign is "wrist drop" or weakness of the wrist and fingers, usually of the hand which holds the paint brush.

How it occurs

The breathing in of dust from dry rubbing-down of lead paint is the chief cause of lead poisoning amongst painters. If paint ready-mixed with oil is used in a clean way, painting work which does not involve the dry-rubbing down of lead painted surfaces (which is prohibited by the Regulations) should be quite harmless.

The spraying of lead paint in the interior painting of buildings is very dangerous to health and is prohibited.

Lead paint does not enter the body through the skin. It may, however, be carelessly swallowed along with food, and if painters roll and smoke cigarettes during work they may get lead paint into their mouths.

Overall suits should never be shaken to rid them of dust, but they should be washed at least once a week and not worn at meal times.

How to prevent lead poisoning

A painter can help to keep himself fit. He should be very careful to keep his hands clean and he should never eat without first washing them. Bad teeth, by lowering the general health, play a part in causing lead poisoning.

Never rub down dry a painted lead surface. Wash the hands and face before meals. Keep the bowels open at regular times, and take an occasional mild aperient (opening medicine) if necessary. Eat good regular meals, and in particular, never start work without a substantial breakfast. If your appetite for breakfast becomes poor, consult a doctor.

What to do in case of ill-health

Medical advice in the early stages of ill-health is especially important if there is any suspicion that lead poisoning is the cause. Early treatment can do much to bring about a complete cure, while neglect of symptoms may allow lead to accumulate in the body. Modern methods of treatment of lead poisoning are very successful.

Paints other than lead

With the exception of lead compounds (and those of mercury in anti-fouling paints) there is no evidence that metallic compounds in paints cause ill-health. The vapours of paints and thinners can cause headache, giddiness and sometimes (when working in ill-ventilated confined spaces) sickness and stomach pains which may be confused with lead colic. These symptoms generally disappear in fresh air and good ventilation is the best protection against such effects.

Painting in confined spaces

Oil paints dry by taking oxygen from the air. Therefore, when painting in or entering soon after painting what is known as a "confined space", i.e., one without proper means of ventilation, there is a risk of being overcome because of lack of oxygen. Prevention is by good ventilation during painting (which also removes paint fumes) and, if there is doubt later about the sufficiency of oxygen, it will be necessary before re-entry to take additional safety measures. These include the use of a respirator providing a supply of fresh air from outside the space, and the wearing of a safety belt and line, the latter held by a person outside.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order prescribes the leaflet containing special health instructions as to the use of paint to be given by his employer to every person employed in, or in connection with, the painting of buildings, in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Lead Paint Regulations, 1927. The leaflet prescribed by this Order is in substitution for that prescribed by the Order of the Minister dated the 8th July, 1957, which is revoked.