STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1964 No. 559

FACTORIES

The Lead Paint (Prescribed Leaflet) Order 1964

Made - - - -	13*th April* 1964
Coming into Operation	22*nd April* 1964

The Minister of Labour in pursuance of Regulation 7(*a*) of the Lead Paint Regulations 1927(**a**) hereby prescribes for the purposes of the said Regulation 7(*a*) 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 1964 and shall come into operation on 22nd April 1964.

(2) The Lead Paint (Prescribed Leaflet) Order 1961(**b**) is hereby revoked.

2. The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) 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 Regulation 7(*a*) shall be in the form set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Dated 13th April 1964.

Joseph Godber,
Minister of Labour.

SCHEDULE

Article 3
Form 394

LEAD PAINT REGULATIONS 1927

S.R. & O. 1927 No. 847

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

PREVENTION OF LEAD POISONING IN PAINTERS

1 What it is

It is not widely appreciated that the earliest symptoms of lead poisoning in painters may be very indefinite, such as lack of energy, muscular aches passed off as rheumatism and a slight degree of anaemia (bloodlessness) which may only be detectable as the result of special tests. These conditions are very common and in the majority of cases are unconnected with occupation. Even when experienced by painters they are not necessarily an indication of poisoning, but a painter using lead paints who finds himself suffering from these symptoms

(a) S.R. & O. 1927/847 (Rev. VII, p. 476: 1927, p. 441).
(b) S.I. 1961/1271 (1961 II, p. 2466).
(c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

should seek medical advice. At a later stage of lead poisoning other symptoms appear, such as 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. At this stage, anaemia may be much more obvious. These more advanced stages of poisoning are nowadays uncommon in painters.

2 How it occurs

The chief cause of lead poisoning in painters has been the breathing in of dust from dry rubbing-down of surfaces which have been painted with lead-containing paints. The spraying of lead paint in the interior painting of buildings is also very dangerous. Lead paint does not enter the body through the skin. It may, however, be swallowed along with food if the hands are soiled or if cigarettes, especially hand-rolled cigarettes, are smoked at work.

Dry rubbing-down of lead painted surfaces is, in general, prohibited by Regulations. Where the painted material consists of iron or steel, only dry sand-papering is prohibited. Although nowadays paints (other than certain primer paints) seldom contain appreciable quantities of lead, this is not necessarily true of the old paint being rubbed-down. Painted surfaces should therefore never be rubbed-down dry unless it is certain that a lead paint was not previously used, and any debris from wet rubbing-down should be removed before it can dry.

The spraying of lead paint in the interior painting of buildings is also prohibited by law.

The application of ready mixed paints, whether containing lead or not, should be quite harmless if used in a clean way.

In recent years, painters and others engaged in burning off multiple coats of old paint from structural steel work by means of blowlamps etc., have developed lead poisoning. In this process, it is the breathing in of fume which causes poisoning.

3 How to prevent lead poisoning

A painter can do much himself to prevent lead poisoning from his work. He should be very careful to keep his hands clean and should never eat or smoke without first washing them.

If a respirator (mask) is provided for a particular job on which he is engaged, he should be conscientious in using it. He should also make full use of overalls, whether his own or provided by his employer, and these should be washed at least once a week. If they become dusty and it is not possible to clean them by some other means, they should be shaken only out of doors, avoiding as far as possible the inhalation of any dust set free.

4 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 so 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.

5 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.

6 Painting in confined spaces

Painting which has to be done in a poorly ventilated area or space from which the fumes from the paint solvents cannot, unaided, readily disperse, may entail additional hazards from these fumes. Dangerous concentration may quickly occur unless effective steps are taken to secure and maintain adequate ventilation. There may also be a risk in such cases of persons entering these confined spaces being overcome because of lack of oxygen, since oil paints dry by taking oxygen from the air.

Prevention is by good ventilation during painting: if there is doubt later about the freedom from fumes or sufficiency of oxygen, additional safety measures should be taken before re-entry. 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. This may be required by law when the work is carried out in a factory.

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 Lead Paint (Prescribed Leaflet) Order 1961, which is revoked.