February 10, 1994

Ms. Diane Manning, Docket Office Manager
Mail Stop C-15
Division of Standards Development
and Technology Transfer
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Ms. Manning:

In response to the letter of January 10, 1994, from Richard W. Niemeier, Ph.D., soliciting comments regarding any experiences we may have had relating to the issue of contamination of workers’ homes by hazardous substances in the workplace, we have asked our field offices to review their files for such information.

Please be advised that as a regulatory agency the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is primarily concerned with conditions in the workplace and the efforts taken by employers to control and contain hazardous substances within their places of employment. As you are probably already aware, OSHA has several substance specific standards, i.e., lead, arsenic, coke oven emissions, etc., that require employers to provide such things as changes of work clothing, change rooms, and showers when certain airborne contaminant levels are exceeded. Thus, if the employer is complying with the applicable OSHA standards, there should theoretically be little or no contamination of the workers’ homes. Unfortunately, that is not always the case, but OSHA does not inspect workers’ homes. Rather, we hold the employer responsible for ensuring that hazardous substances are not being transported out of the workplace, and we attempt to curtail that through the enforcement of our standards.

Two of our area offices were able to provide some limited information relating to this issue, and we have enclosed this for your review and any use it may be to you. If you have any specific questions with regard to the examples presented in the enclosed documents we would recommend that you directly contact the respective offices which submitted them to us.

Sincerely,

William Q. Wiehrdt
Assistant Regional Administrator
Technical Support
February 3, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR:  MICHAEL G. CONNORS
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

ATTENTION:  BILL WIEHRDT
ARA/TS

FROM:  CHARLES J. SHIELDS
AREA DIRECTOR

SUBJECT:  WORKER HOMES CONTAMINATION CASES

This is in response to the NIOSH request for information on contamination of worker homes. We remembered two county health department cases, but since we don’t inspect worker homes we can’t provide much detail or records. The local health departments would have any records of these incidents.

1. Kankakee Health Department, Kankakee, Illinois - referred a case of gross contamination of a home to OSHA 10-12 years ago. The father was an employee of Gould Battery in Kankakee and was bringing lead home on his clothing. Two children were hospitalized/chelated. OSHA did a comprehensive inspection at Gould Battery.

2. Marion County Health and Hospital Corporation, Indianapolis, Indiana. Indiana OSHA referred a case of lead contamination of a home to this county agency. C. Shields observed a possible problem with lead contamination of a home during a lead inspection at Wolfe Enterprises, Indianapolis, Indiana. Five related employees were bringing lead home on their shoes/clothing. The inspection was made in December 1984 and the referral was made in January 1985. At least one of the children had what was termed severe lead intoxication (a blood lead of 50 ug/100g) and underwent chelation.
Date: February 2, 1994

From: Robin R. Medlock, Area Director

Subject: Master Metals

To: William Q. Wiehrdt, ARA - T/S

In response to the January 10, 1994 letter:

The Cleveland Area OSHA office conducted in 1990 an investigation at Master Metals 2850 West Third Street, Cleveland Ohio. During that inspection employee exposure to lead was demonstrated. Upon hearing reports of children of three employees having elevated blood lead levels, a decision was made to conduct sampling in employee's homes. Those wipe sampling results are attached. This matter was subsequently referred to the Ohio Department of Health and the Cleveland Lead Hazard Abatement Center. Please contact these agencies to determine what response they had.

For your information the addresses of these agencies are as follows:

Mary Rouse
Epidemiologist
Toxicology Branch
Division of Epidemiology
Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High Street
Post Office Box 118
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0118
(614) 466-3543

Cleveland Lead Hazard Abatement Center
9127 Miles Road
Cleveland, Ohio
44105
(216) 441-7402

If you require additional information in reference to OSHA activity at this site, please contact Mr. Marc Snitzer, Industrial Hygienist, at (216) 522-3818.
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Note: Prices are in USD per ounce.
The following table may appear on lists generated by the data lab.

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**UNITs OF MEASURE: ft:**
- c = crl per unit
- d = Milligram per cubic meter
- h = hen
- m = Microgram
- u = Microgram per deciliter (blood)
- v = Milligram per liter (urine)