



19651223 Dept of Health letter emphasising lead-safety & PPE for handling leaded sludge

Telephone: 87049

P.O. Box 137, WHANGAREI.

23 December 1965

Mr I. Rolfe,
Ormiston Road,
Onerahi.

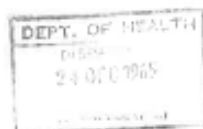
Dear Mr Rolfe,

Mr McLeod our Supervising Inspector has forwarded to you a copy of the article "Safe Practice in the Handling of Leaded Sludge", which covers most of the safety aspects of tank cleaning.

Points I would like to emphasize are:

1. The hazard in the operation of cleaning rich tanks is one of lead in air with its attendant danger of inhalation, in addition to the danger of contact contamination. These facts should be clearly understood by all men engaged on this type of work.
2. Initial medical check-ups of men carrying out this work is essential. The doctor carrying out this examination should be informed of the nature of the work to be undertaken.
3. Careful attention must be given to the provision of personal protection of operatives. Compressor air supplied P.V.C. suits are recommended.
N.B. Canister-type masks should on no account be used under the tanks, and when used outside must be fitted with the canisters recommended by Compound supplies. Their limited value must be recognised.
4. Adequate facilities must be provided for workmen to change into their special working clothing, to put on or test breathing apparatus and after work, to remove clothing. Good working arrangements with plenty of hot or cold water are essential. Clean clothing and equipment must be provided each day.
5. Entry into a tank after cleaning requires the wearing of breathing apparatus. Maximum ventilation must be maintained until all work in the tank is completed.
6. Site selected for the disposal of sludge must be approved by this Department.

Yours faithfully,



J.M. Brownlie,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Above, 23rd December 1965 Letter to Mr Rolfe, Ormiston Road, Onerahi, **Whangarei**, New Zealand from Medical Officer of Health emphasising "Initial medical check-ups of men carrying out this [handling of leaded sludge] work is essential"; and required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) eg "Entry into a [leaded sludge] tank after cleaning requires the wearing of breathing apparatus."