

**Arizona  
Department of  
Health Services**

*Disease Prevention Services*

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JACK DILLENBERG, D.D.S., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR

February 3, 1994

Dr. Bob Mason  
Division of Standards Development and Technology Transfer  
NIOSH  
Robert A. Taft Laboratories  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998

Dear Dr. Mason:

The role of the Investigation and Surveillance Section (ISS), Office of Risk Assessment (ORAI), is to collect and investigate reports of lead poisoning, defined as a person with a lead level of 10 ug/dL or greater, and pesticide poisoning. We also may become involved in investigation of illness related to other environmental contaminants.

We do not have in the ISS any documented instances of take-home exposures causing poisonings of family members. We do, however, have a handful of childhood lead poisoning cases in which environmental investigation indicated that take-home contamination may have been one source of lead for the child. The childhood lead poisoning prevention program has been in existence for only a few years and is still in a period of rapid growth, both in number of reports received and development of procedures for investigating these reports. Currently, we provide investigations for any case of childhood lead poisoning where the blood lead level is 20 ug/dL or greater. I have enclosed a copy of the reporting law, which requires both laboratories and physicians to report blood lead levels of 10 ug/dL and greater to our office.

I do not have general access to the records of the Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health, the agency which investigates workplace exposures in Arizona. They have not referred any cases to us, citing take-home exposure as a concern. As we discussed by phone today, I would like a copy of their report to you, as an update of their activities. We would welcome an opportunity to coordinate our lead activities with theirs.

We have in the past investigated cases of childhood pesticide poisoning involving the storage of pesticides by workers in beverage containers. This may qualify as a take-home exposure, but we have not seen any such incidents in the past year.

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The Arizona Department of Agriculture is the agency responsible for worker protection training in Arizona for farm workers. They are aware of our concerns regarding this exposure scenario and have agreed to include the appropriate precautions in their training.

If you have any questions, I may be reached at (602) 542-7306.

Sincerely,



Cecile Fowler  
Manager  
Investigation and  
Surveillance Section

CF\mj

Enclosures