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Methods of test for paints

Part B3: Determination of “soluble” lead in the solid matter in liquid paints: method for use in conjunction with The Control of Lead at Work Regulations, 1980 (S.I. 1980 No. 1248)

It is recommended that this Part be read in conjunction with the general information in the Introduction to BS 3900, issued separately.

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The Committees responsible for this British Standard are shown in the General introduction.
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Foreword

This revision of BS 3900-B3 has been prepared under the direction of the Pigments, Paints and Varnishes Standards Committee. It supersedes BS 3900-B3:1965 which is now withdrawn.

Following the enactment of the Factories Act, 1961, the first edition of this Part of BS 3900 was published in 1965. It specified a standard procedure for determining “soluble lead” in paints or paint materials as required by that Act and as defined in S.R. and O. No. 1621 (1926).

The Control of Lead at Work Regulations, 1980 (S.I. 1980 No. 1248) revoked the relevant orders under the Factories Act, 1961 and S.R. and O. No. 1621 (1926), as well as The Lead Paint Regulations, 1927 (S.R. and O. No. 847) as amended by S.I. 1973, No. 36. In its place, in all cases involving the use of lead or its compounds, an “assessment of lead work” is required. The Approved Code of Practice ¹⁾, which provides practical guidance in respect of S.I. 1980 No. 1248, itemizes “types of lead work where there is liable to be significant exposure to lead” and specifically excludes:

- a) work with materials which contain less than 1 % total lead; and
- b) work with low solubility lead compounds in paints.

The Approved Code of Practice defines a “low solubility lead compound” in its Appendix 2 and also, for guidance, gives in the same appendix a method for the determination of low solubility lead compounds. This appendix is presented, for information, in Appendix B of this standard.

The method specified in this Part of BS 3900, although differing in detail from that given in Appendix 2 of the Approved Code of Practice, is considered by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to be formulated within the spirit of that appendix. The HSE has confirmed that this method would not be regarded as contrary to its suggested method. The essential difference between the methods is that, in order to facilitate the maintenance of a constant temperature during the extraction procedure (see 7.1), stirring is to be preferred to the “shaking” method given in the Approved Code of Practice.

It is expected that a direct reference to this Part of BS 3900 will be made at the next revision of the Approved Code of Practice.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

¹⁾ Approved Code of Practice “Control of Lead at Work”, Health and Safety Commission, HMSO, 1980.