



China Ramps Up Exports of Tetraethyl Lead

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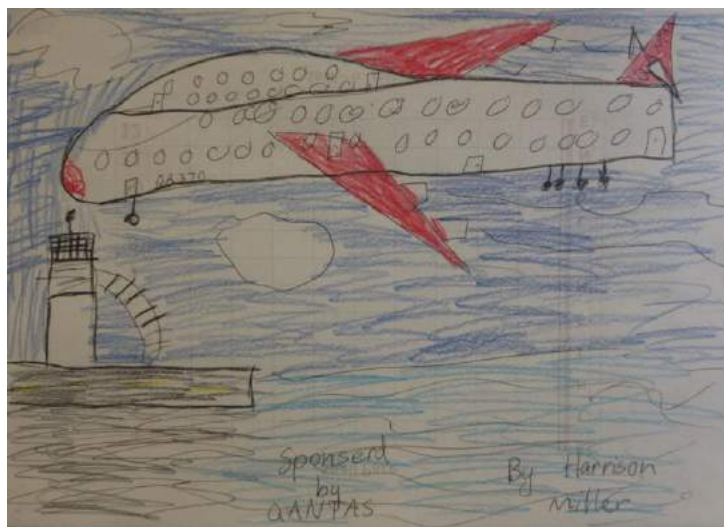
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Given that the ban on the use of lead additives in gasoline has been in place in the U.S. since the 1970s, it may surprise you to learn that the U.S. is using over 5,700 metric tons of tetraethyl lead per year primarily for aviation fuel. In fact most small, single-engine aircraft use lead fuel despite research that has shown elevated lead levels among children in the vicinity of small airstrips.

In the past most of the tetraethyl lead used for this fuel was imported from the UK, however, in recent years China has become a significant new supplier. In fact imports from China have grown from none in 2008 to account for approximately 17% of all US consumption in 2011.

Tetraethyl lead is one of the most hazardous forms of lead since it is readily absorbed through the skin. The production of this chemical has historically been associated with lead poisoning among workers.

Although efforts to finally stop the use of lead as a fuel additive have been debated for some time, it is not expected that U.S. EPA will ban it any time soon. Friends of the Earth had filed a lawsuit in 2012 to force the EPA to act.



Graphic (added by The LEAD Group):
Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry by
Child Artist: Harrison Miller. Title:
Sponsored by Qantas. **Lead-safety
Message: Fly high with lead-free
jet fuel.**

<https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/sponsored-by-qantas/>