



**KEBS**

---

**Kenya Bureau Of  
Standards**





# **Four Years to Phase Out Lead in Paint Worldwide**

---

**Establishing legal limits to lead in paints**

**By Peter Namutala Wanyonyi**



# Introduction...

---

- Standards body in Kenya;
- Established through "*The Standards Act*" Cap. 496 of the Laws of Kenya;
- Started its operations on 12th July 1974;
- Responsible to the Ministry of Industry, Investment and trade



# **Our mandate....**

---

- **To promote the competitiveness of Kenyan goods and services;**
- **To improve the quality of life through the application of Measurement, Standards, Testing and Quality Assurance (MSTQ);**
- **To support governmental policies:**
  - a) **Reduction of trade barriers & Promote fair trade practices;**
  - b) **Consumer protection;**
  - c) **Health and safety, and Environmental protection;**



# Core Functions

---

1. Standards Development
2. Testing
3. Metrology
4. Implementation of Standards in commerce and industry
5. Accreditation-Testing, calibration/metrology Labs,
6. Certification-Product(SM,ISM and Diamond Mark) or Systems (QMS, EMS, OHSAS)
7. Inspection of imports, local products and exports
8. Training and Education in Metrology, Standards, Testing, Quality Assurance (MSTQ) and certification



# What do standards do?

---

- make the development, manufacturing and supply of products and services **more efficient, safer and cleaner**
- **facilitate trade** between countries and make it **fairer**
- provide governments with a technical base for **health, safety and environmental legislation**, and conformity assessment
- **share** technological advances and good management practice
- disseminate **innovation**
- **safeguard consumers**, and users in general, of products and services
- make life simpler by providing **solutions** to common problems



# Highlights of Addis Ababa workshop held on 2-4 Dec 2015

---

- The workshop in Addis Ababa was jointly organized by UNEP and IPEN, a global network of NGOs working for a toxics free future.



## Highlights continue.....

---

- Government officials and stakeholders from 15 African countries, including Kenya, joined by their counterparts from around the world agreed to cooperate to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020.





## Cont...

---

- It was reported that Studies of paint sold in several countries in Africa demonstrate that the majority of paints on the market have high lead levels. Many countries are now beginning to enact laws to eliminate lead in paints and set 90 ppm total lead limits on paints produced and sold in their countries.



## Cont.....

---

- countries were requested to join the global efforts of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint - a partnership of governments and stakeholders convened by UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) - to introduce a legal limit on lead in paint in all countries worldwide by 2020.
- It was also reported that countries should join efforts and resources to implement the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2030 of the African Union in order to achieve this target.



## Cont....

---

- At the workshop, Ms Angela Bandemeher, Chair of the Advisory Group of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, presented the Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint, available on UNEP's website.
- The toolkit provides information on health and environmental impacts, alternative paints, challenges for small and medium sized enterprises, etc. It also includes case studies from countries where legal limits were successfully introduced, such as Uruguay and the Philippines.



## Cont....

---

- The workshop, participants reviewed the existing policy and initiatives for phasing out lead paint in African countries.
- East African standards applicable to five East African countries was being developed to limit the lead content in decorative paint.
- Similar initiatives exist in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- The participants agreed that efforts are needed in each country to phase out lead paint and set a total lead content limit of 90ppm. They also agreed that this limit should be harmonized within the sub-region.

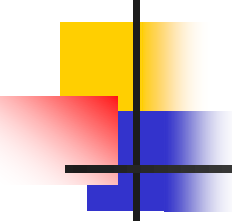


## National ,EAC standards and regulations on leads paints

---

- Harmonization of ten East African Standards on paints are in the final draft stages approval to become East African Standards.
- However, the Standards had set a limit of 100 ppm soluble lead.
- This shall be revised to 90 ppm total lead as agreed in addis workshop.

# cont.....

- 
- 
- KEBS has developed two drafts that will regulate total amount of lead content in paints, varnishes, coatings and related products namely
    - **CD/CHEM/120/2016** Paints, varnishes, coatings and related products — Determination of total lead—Part 1: Preliminary examination of samples and sampling procedure.
    - **CD/CHEM/120/2016** Paints, varnishes, coatings and related products — Determination of total lead—Part 2: Maximum permissible content of total lead based on dry weight
  - The two standards will be harmonized as EAC Standards.

# Further information... at

[www.kebs.org](http://www.kebs.org)



## Kenya Bureau of Standards

A World of quality products

or Peter Namutala : [namutalap@kebs.org](mailto:namutalap@kebs.org)

Kenya Bureau of Standards

P.O. Box 54974 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: (+254 020) 694800/603433/602350/1

Fax: (+254 020) 604031/609660