

Lead in paint activities in ALBANIA

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Chisinau, 19-20 May, 2016

International Lead in Paint Awareness Week, 2013



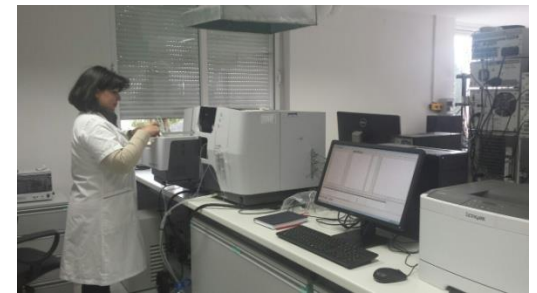
TV roundtable

International Lead in Paint Awareness Week, 2014



International Lead in Paint Awareness Week, 2015

- **Analytical study**
- 20 samples of enamel paints were purchased in different shops in Tirana city and analyzed for lead content in the Laboratory of Instrumental Analytical Chemistry at Institute of Public Health, Tirana, Albania.



ANALYTICAL RESULTS

Sample No.	Brand	Colour	Lead concentration in ppm (mg/kg) of dry weight	
1	A	White	2.5	"Lead and chromates free
2	A	Yellow	12 430	"Lead and chromates free
3	A	Blue	7.5	"Lead and chromates free
4	A	Green	7 800	"Lead and chromates free
5	A	Red	10.8	"Lead and chromates free
6	B	White	8	"Lead and chromates free
7	B	Green	13.5	"Lead and chromates free
8	B	Yellow	6.8	"Lead and chromates free
9	B	Red	26.4	"Lead and chromates free
10	C	Red	652	
11	D	Green	761	
12	D	Yellow	7 230	
13	E	Yellow	28.7	
14	E	Green	20.2	
15	F	White	18.4	
16	F	Green	2 232	
17	F	Yellow	10.2	
18	G	Blue		
19	G	Green		
20	G			

What reference/ cutoff value to use???

What is lead free paint?

Conclusions of the study

- *High lead levels were found in enamel paints: 35 percent (7 of 20 samples) of the samples (yellow, green and red) exceeded the **Canadian maximal allowed concentration for lead in paints (90 mg/kg in dry mass) and even the US MAC, that is 600 mg/kg .***
- Two of these samples belong to one of the brands which states in the paint **label “Lead and chromate free”**.

Conclusions of the study (2)

- The concentrations varied from not detectable, to ca. **12 g/kg dry mass**, strongly depending from the producer and from the paint color, with a lead content decreasing from **Yellow** > **Green** > **Red** > **Blue** > **White** coloured paints.
- Four out of seven sampled brands produce enamel paints with very low lead concentrations, while the prices of the paints do not differ considerably. This is a very good indication **of availability of lead free alternatives.**

Conclusions of the study (3)

- A reference or maximal allowed value for lead in paint seems to be missing in the EU chemicals legislation. The interpretation of the allowed concentration of lead in mixtures seems to be species related, while **it is the elementary lead which is normally measured**. The **existing values for lead** in paint in REACH and CLP seem **complicated, confusing and difficult to apply**. Sometimes these values are contradictory to the labelling requirement of lead paint, which only for paints containing more than 0.15% of elementary lead of the total weight of the mixture should contain in label the EUH201 — *‘Contains lead. Should not be used on surfaces liable to be chewed or sucked by children’* and In the case of packages the contents of which are less than 125 ml, the statement may be: EUH201A — *‘Warning! Contains lead’*.

Recommendations

- **A clear maximal allowed lead concentration in dried mass would be a very useful tool for reference and decision making.**
- **The definition of lead free paint would also help in implementation activities and decision making.**
- **Older paints** are expected to have much higher levels of lead. Studies of lead in blood or of lead in dust in dwellings where enamel paints have been used..