

**LEAD IN PAINT WORKSHOP  
2-4 DECEMBER 2015  
ADDIS ABABBA.ETHIOPIA**



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Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products found in and around our homes including paint.
- Between the early 40s and late 70s interior walls in South African homes, schools and hospitals were painted with leaded paint.
- Lead-based paint was marketed and in great demand because it was washable and durable and risks were unknown.
- Lead was added to paint to speed up drying, increase durability, maintain a fresh appearance, and resist moisture that causes corrosion.



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# LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Section 24 of South African Constitution clearly states that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and emphasis on the need to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures.
- In 2003 Lead Regulations under section 43 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) Act 85 of 1993 were developed.
- ✓ The act also emphasises that Lead paint shall not be used for the interior painting of buildings; scraped or rubbed down from a surface by a dry process; removed by burning; or used on furniture
- In 2009 under the Hazardous Substances Act (Act 15 of 1973) Leaded paint was hereby declared to be a group 1 category A hazardous substance .
- ✓ The Act limits the use of lead in paint >600ppm sold in small containers directly to public.
- ✓ Industrial paint is specifically omitted from legislation



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# CHALLENGES WRT LEAD IN PAINT IN SA

- South Africa has excellent legislation for leaded paint unfortunately there is not enough capacity to enforce these legislations as lead is still found in newly manufactured paint and pigments exceeding 600ppm.
- There is reluctance to prosecute offenders.
- Leaded paint is a key source of lead exposure in South Africa which also increases the costs to the Department of Health.
- High levels of lead are currently found in paint in old as well as newly constructed dwellings in South Africa.
- Costly lead abatement programmes such as removing toxic lead-based paint from homes, public buildings, playgrounds soil remediation and other settings.



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# CHALLENGES WRT LEAD IN PAINT IN SA...2

- Lead hazard awareness ought to be a much higher priority in the country than removing the leaded paint from buildings.
- Exposure to leaded paints has led to serious health, social and economic consequences, including compromised educational attainment (A number of studies done by Medical Research Council in SA school has proven this).
- Blood lead levels also continue to be highest in Black children due to apartheid error( Black owned houses were painted with lead paint).
- Between 2009 & 2010 a survey of pigmented enamel paint purchased in stores in Johannesburg and Cape Town revealed that 83% of samples were lead-based residential paints.
- On this survey only 2 of the 25 lead-based residential paint products displayed warnings of the high lead content .



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# SOUND INITIATIVES

- Steps have been taken to reduce exposure to lead-based paint i.e homes undergo renovation.
- South Africa restricted the use of lead in household paints to less than 600 parts per million, beginning in 2009.
- South African Paint Manufacturers Association (SAPMA) has been in existence more than 70yrs, which deals with industrial relations pertaining to the Paint & Ink Industry in terms of the requirements of the 'Labour Relations Act.
- SAPMA participates in media campaigns and supports the anti lead in paint and requests that offenders, both manufacturers and paint retailers selling leaded paints be prosecuted.
- Lead regulations on exposure to lead in the workplace has been promulgated



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# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government together with Paint Industry to remove toxic lead-based paint from South African homes, public buildings and other settings.
- SA to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints.
- SA not to accept imported, lead-painted children's toys after the phasing out of lead in paint.
- To sensor or detectors which will detect whether lead paint have exceeded the limits set.



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Thank You



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