



Eliminate Lead
Paint Alliance




LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE REGULATORY TOOLKIT


The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) has developed a web-based Regulatory Toolkit that provides information for government officials and stakeholders who are interested in understanding the problems caused by lead in paints and galvanizing actions to establish legal limits for lead in paints in their countries. The toolkit was developed by a group of Alliance partners, including government representatives, nongovernmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and industry. The toolkit, through the web modules listed below, provides information on why lead is a public health, environmental, and economic concern, explains current methods for testing lead in blood and in paint, and describes the existing market for paint products. It also gives insight into what other countries have done regarding legal restrictions on lead use in paint, how to raise public awareness about lead poisoning, and components needed for establishing laws and regulations to effectively restrict the use of lead in paints.

This brochure provides an overview of the information provided in the regulatory toolkit, which is accessible at www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit.

The content of the toolkit was provided by the Government of Germany (the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the German Federal Environment Agency), the Government of Philippines (the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources), the Government of Uruguay (the Uruguay National Environment Directorate and the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores), the Government of the United States of America (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), IPEN, the International Paint and Printing Ink Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Health Organization.

Part 1. Understanding the Problem

A  **Why is lead added to paint?**
Lead compounds may intentionally be added to paint to create bright colors, produce hard and glossy surfaces, resist corrosion, and increase durability. However, these lead additives create a source of major lead exposure.

B  **Health, Environmental, and Economic Impacts of Lead in Paint**
Lead is a cumulative toxicant that has harmful effects on multiple body systems. Children are especially vulnerable, and damage to the neurological system may be permanent. Currently there is no known threshold for toxic effects. Lead is also known to bioaccumulate in terrestrial and aquatic organisms, and to have toxic impacts on the ecosystem. Lead exposure creates significant costs to individuals, communities, and nations.

B.i  **Health Hazards**

B.ii  **Environmental Impacts**

B.iii  **Economic Costs**



Assessing Lead Exposure

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Lead in Blood



Lead in Paint

Part 2. Identifying the Market



Industry Perspective on the Elimination of Lead Paint

The paint manufacturing industry supports the need for government restrictions on lead use in decorative paints in every country. Reformulation of decorative paints is feasible to eliminate lead use, and technical and cost impacts are manageable.



Alternatives to Lead Use in Paint

Cost-effective reformulation alternatives are available for all lead-containing paint ingredients. A high retail price is not necessarily a guarantee for low lead content of the paint.



Lead Paint Studies in Developing Countries

Paints with extremely high levels of lead (> 10,000 ppm) are still available in most developing countries.



Lead Paint Studies in Developing Countries

Although alternatives to lead paint are available, SMEs face unique obstacles, such as accessing the appropriate substitute ingredients in the right quantities at a competitive price and getting the information on how to reformulate.

Part 3. Taking Action



Case Studies on Existing Lead Paint Laws

Many countries have enacted laws or regulations to control the manufacture, use, and sale of paints with added lead. Case studies are provided to demonstrate various perspectives from countries that have worked to prevent exposure to lead from paint.



European Union



European Union



Uruguay



Philippines



South Africa
IN PREPARATION



Raising Awareness

Raising awareness about the hazards of lead is important to stimulate action by governments, paint manufacturers and the public. Since 2012, the last week of October has been established as International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. Ideas are given for awareness-raising activities about lead poisoning to urge further action to eliminate lead in paint.



Establishing a Legal Framework to Regulate Lead in Paint

Regulations have proven effective in controlling or eliminating the use of lead in paints in many countries, resulting in reductions in cases of lead poisoning. Key principles are presented for ensuring the development of effective and enforceable legal limits on lead in paint.

Points of Contact

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) is a voluntary partnership established to help achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead paint and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. A major goal of the Alliance is that all countries will have adopted legally binding laws, regulations, standards and/or procedures to eliminate the use of lead additives in new paints by 2020.

To learn more about the Lead Paint Alliance visit:

www.unep.org/noleadinpaint/ or www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/gaelp/en/

For questions regarding health issues email: noleadinpaint@who.int

For questions regarding environmental issues email: noleadinpaint@unep.org