

Elimination of Lead in Paint

12 June 2018, 12:15-14:00 - International Environment House 2

The Chemicals and Health Branch of UN Environment will hold an informal technical briefing on specific activities related to lead paint.

The briefing will provide details on some of the work currently underway on lead paint and offers an opportunity for dialogue among relevant stakeholders and sectors on how to advance the elimination on lead paint.

Lead is a cumulative toxic element particularly harmful to young children and pregnant women. Childhood lead poisoning, also during pregnancy, can have lifelong health impacts including: learning disabilities, anaemia, and disorders in coordination, visual, spatial and language skills. There is a significant economic burden resulting from loss of IQ due to preventable childhood lead exposure in low and middle-income countries. It was estimated that, in 2015, lead exposure accounted for almost half a million deaths due to long-term effects on health, with the highest burden in low and middle-income countries. Even relatively low levels of exposure to lead can cause serious and irreversible neurological damage, there is no known safe level of lead exposure for adults or children.



BAN LEAD PAINT

The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session called for the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, a voluntary partnership to prevent exposure to lead, while promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead. Only 30 percent of the world regulates lead paint. The Lead Paint Alliance works to increase awareness on the toxic effects of lead, encourage countries to adopt legislation to eliminate lead paint, and urge paint manufacturers to use lead-free pigments or lead-free additives.

For more information on lead paint elimination, see <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint>

Programme

Moderator: Jacob Duer, Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment

Overview of global efforts to eliminate lead in paint: Why action now matters - Walker Smith, USEPA, Chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

The role of civil society in preventing exposure to lead in paint and promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead - Sara Brosche, IPEN

Innovation solutions by manufacturers in eliminating lead in paint - Martin Engelmann, International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC)

Q and A

Sandwiches will be provided