

Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint September 2019



NEW in the 2019 Global Update

NEW LAWS: Bangladesh and Israel have established new laws to address lead in paint.

NEW TOOL: UN Environment published the fact sheet: [Suggested Steps for Establishing a Lead Paint Law](#), a resource for countries ready to take action to eliminate lead paint. The fact sheet outlines steps which have been helpful in countries that have adopted laws. It is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

NEW MOMENTUM: An increasing number of countries are taking steps to eliminate lead paint. Many of these actions are the result of recent regional workshops on “Promoting Regulatory Action by Governments to Phase out Lead in Paint” held in the African, Central and Eastern European, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia and Asia and Pacific regions under the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project on lead paint.

Global Progress Toward Eliminating Lead Paint

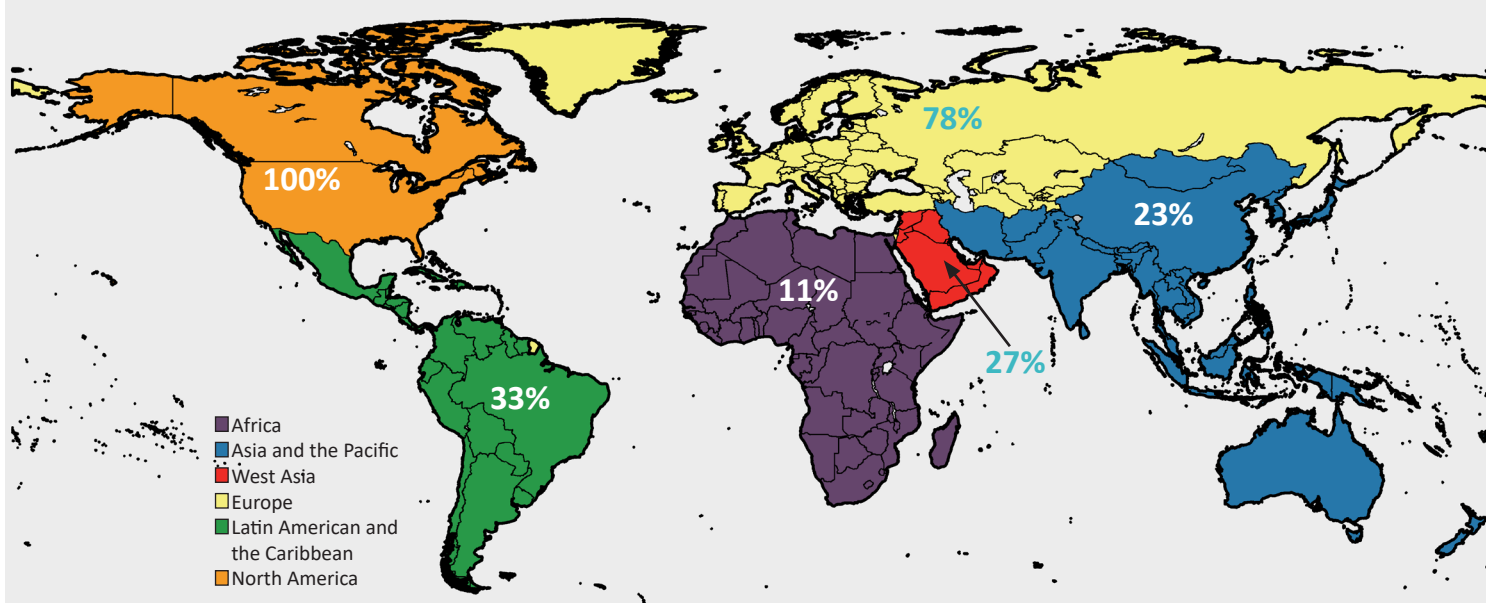
As of 30 September 2019, 73 countries have legally binding controls to limit the production, import and sale of lead paints, which is 38% of all countries. In many countries, using lead paint in homes and schools is not prohibited, creating a significant risk of children’s exposure to lead. The most effective means of preventing lead exposure from paints is to establish national laws, including legislation, regulations and/or legally binding standards as appropriate, that ban the use of lead additives in paints. Countries that have not yet done so are urged to enact and enforce effective national legislation, regulations and/or standards to, at a minimum, stop the manufacture, import and sale of household decorative lead paints. Countries are also encouraged to consider limiting lead in all types of paints.

This update is provided annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) in support of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance). UN Environment and the World Health Organization (WHO) serve as the joint Secretariat for this international voluntary, collaborative initiative (see Endnote 1). The goal of the Lead Paint Alliance is for all countries to have lead paint laws in place by 2020.

Countries that have only put in place legally binding controls on lead coatings used on children’s toys are not counted toward this Alliance goal. Eliminating lead paint on children’s toys provides only partial protection, since it does not address household decorative paints. Likewise, countries that have only ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13), which prohibits the use of lead carbonate and lead sulphate in paints, are also not included in this update. Since these lead compounds are no longer widely used in paints, the ILO Convention alone provides little benefit in protecting against lead exposure.

The map below shows the percentage of countries as of September 2019 with lead paint laws within each of the six UN Environment regions (see page 6 for a list of countries by UN Environment region). Table 1, on the following page, lists the specific countries with lead paint laws by region.

Map 1: Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region, as of September 2019



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Unless otherwise noted, all the data in the maps, tables and figures are from WHO: Regulations and controls on lead paint, 30 September 2019 (database) (see Endnote 2).

Table 1: Countries with Confirmed Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region

| Africa | Asia and the Pacific | West Asia | Europe | | | Latin America and the Caribbean | North America |
|---|--|------------------------|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Algeria Cameroon Ethiopia Kenya South Africa United Republic of Tanzania | Australia Bangladesh* China India Nepal New Zealand Philippines Sri Lanka Thailand | Jordan Iraq Oman | Armenia Austria Belarus Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Israel* | Italy Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Latvia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Monaco Montenegro Netherlands North Macedonia Norway Poland Portugal Romania Russian Federation | Serbia Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland United Kingdom | Argentina Brazil Chile Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Guyana Mexico Panama Trinidad and Tobago Uruguay | Canada United States of America |

*New since 1 October, 2018

Lead Exposure from Paint

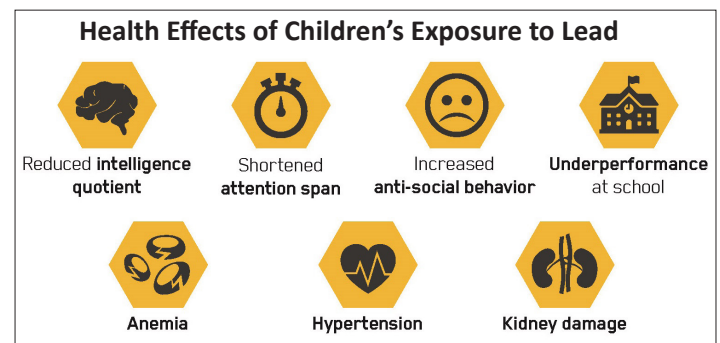
Historically, lead compounds have been added to oil-based decorative and industrial paints and other coatings to enhance colour, reduce corrosion on metal surfaces or shorten drying time. Today, non-lead pigments, driers and anti-corrosive ingredients are widely available for use in most oil-based paints.

After the application of lead paint, weathering, peeling or chipping of the paint releases lead particles into dust and soil in and around homes, schools, playgrounds and other locations. Decorative paint for household use has been identified as the main source of children's lead exposure from paints. Lead-containing dust can also be brought into the home on the clothes of those who work in industries where such dust is generated, including paint factories where lead additives continue to be used.

Lead-contaminated soil and dust are easily ingested and absorbed, particularly by young children when they play on the floor or outdoors and put their hands or other objects in their mouths. Children also ingest lead if they mouth and chew toys painted with lead paint. Both children and adults can be exposed to lead in paint chips and dust during the removal of old lead paint.

Negative Health Effects from Lead Exposure

There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe. Lead can cause permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, resulting in decreased IQ and increased behavioural problems. It can also cause anemia, increase the risk of kidney damage and hypertension, and impair reproductive function. Young children and pregnant women (whose developing fetus can be exposed) are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of lead. Even relatively low levels of exposure can cause serious and irreversible neurological damage. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation has estimated that, based on 2017 data, lead exposure accounted for 1.06 million deaths from long term effects and 24.4 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs) lost (see Endnote 3).



Preventing Health Effects and Related Economic Costs

The negative impacts on children's developing brains resulting from exposure to lead has staggering economic costs that are borne by the affected children, their families and societies at large. These include health care costs, productivity losses and intellectual disability.

The largest economic burden of lead exposure is borne by low- and middle-income countries. Estimated annual costs (in international dollars) of lead exposure by global region, based on loss of IQ, include the following: Africa - \$134.7 billion; Latin America and the Caribbean - \$142.3 billion; and Asia - \$699.9 billion. For annual costs by country, visit the New York University map of Economic Costs of Lead Exposure (see Endnote 4).

The cost of removing existing decorative lead paint from surfaces in homes, schools and other buildings can be substantial. By contrast, the economic cost is low for eliminating the use of lead compounds in new decorative paints. In fact, many manufacturers have already successfully reformulated their paint products to avoid the intentional addition of lead. According to the paint industry, the reformulation of residential and decorative paints to eliminate lead additives is feasible, and the technical and cost impacts are manageable. Increasingly, paint producers are publicly stating that it is possible to eliminate lead additives in all types of paint.

Global Activity

Lead is a cumulative toxicant that poses serious risks to human health and development, with children being especially vulnerable. Lead-containing paint remains one of the major sources of lead exposure for children globally. The international community, governments, industry and non-governmental organizations are working together to promote the establishment of lead paint laws in all countries.

In 2009, the second International Conference on Chemicals Management under the SAICM policy framework endorsed a global partnership to promote the phasing out of lead paint and invited UN Environment and WHO to serve as the joint Secretariat for this partnership. Subsequently the Lead Paint Alliance was established with the goal of phasing out the manufacture, import and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paint. This timeline provides an overview of the Lead Paint Alliance's accomplishments, which have increased in recent years.

2011 – Lead Paint Alliance: UN Environment and WHO published the Lead Paint Alliance operational framework.

2012-2015 – SWITCH-Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project: The European Union (EU) funded work led by the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) in seven Asian countries to help phase out lead paint, five of which ended up passing lead paint laws.

2014-2017 – GEF UN Environment Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa: IPEN worked directly with four countries and reached out to additional countries in Africa to promote lead paint phase out. Three countries ended up passing lead paint laws.

May 2017 - WHO Chemicals Management Roadmap: The Roadmap included an action item for WHO Member States to establish lead paint laws.

August 2017 - American Bar Association (ABA) Resolution: The ABA encouraged their members to support lead paint laws worldwide.

September 2017 - 2017 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint: UN Environment provided lead paint background information and an update on progress toward establishing laws.

November 2017 - Model Law & Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint: UN Environment provided lead paint background information and a model template for a lead paint law.

December 2017 - UNEA 3 Resolution on Lead Paint: Member States passed a resolution calling for the global elimination of lead paint through the establishment of lead paint laws.

May 2019 - Two-Year Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan: The Two-Year Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan laid out concrete actions for partners to promote lead paint elimination.

2019 – 2021 - SAICM GEF Project: The project will assist governments to establish lead paint laws in at least 40 countries and provide guidance to industry to facilitate the shift to producing non-lead paints.

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

2011 - Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint formally launched



2012-2015 - SWITCH-Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project



2014-2017 - GEF Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa



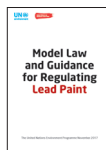
May 2017 - WHO Chemicals Management Roadmap



August 2017 - ABA Resolution on Lead Paint



September 2017 - 2017 Global Status Update



November 2017 - Model Law & Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint



December 2017 - UNEA 3 Resolution on Lead Paint



May 2019 - Two-Year Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan



2019-2021 - SAICM GEF Project

Global Status of Lead Paint Laws

The map below shows data on the status of countries' lead paint laws as provided by governments to UN Environment and WHO (see Endnote 2). As of 30 September, 2019, 73 countries had confirmed that they have legally binding controls on lead in paint, 85 stated that they do not, and information was unavailable for the remaining 35 countries.

Map 2: Countries with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019

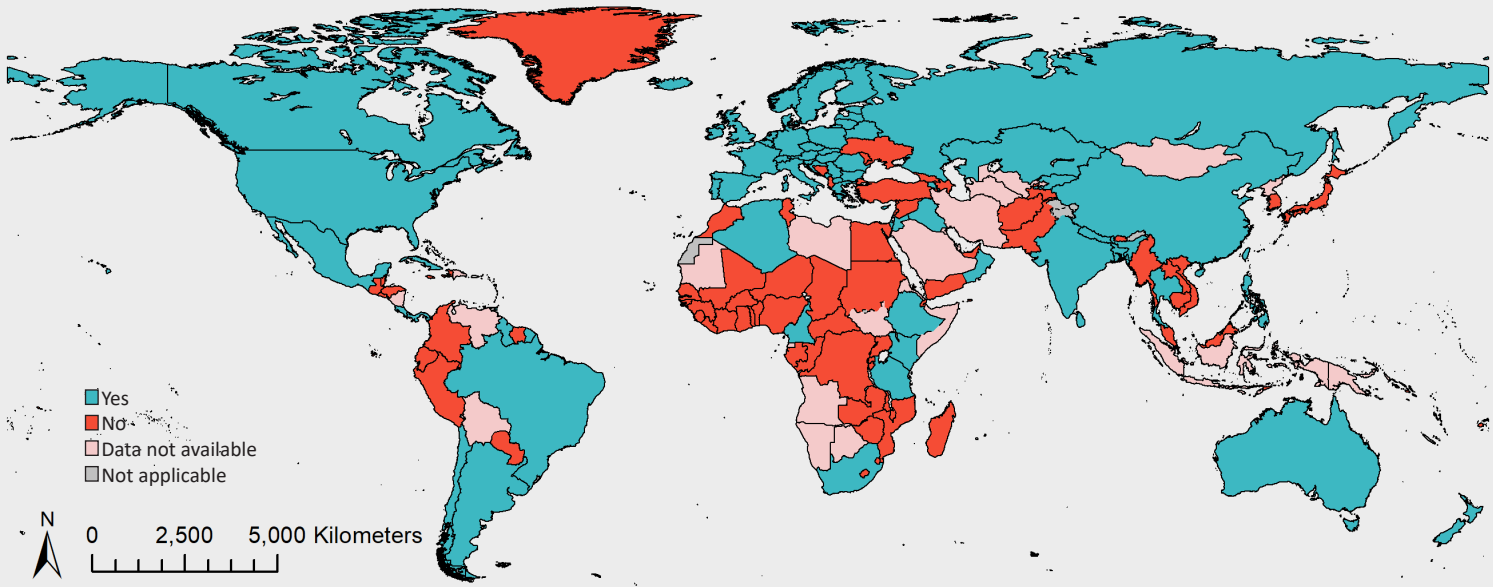
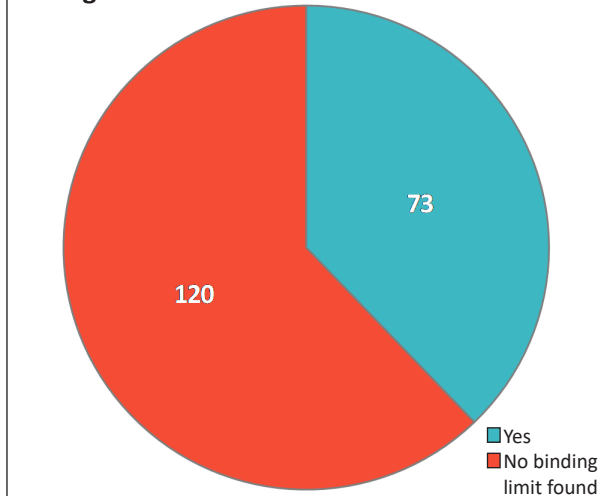


Figure 1: Countries with Lead Paint Laws



Currently **73** countries have lead paint laws and more countries are passing new laws every year.

Lead is Still Present in Paint in High Levels in Many Countries

Since 2009, more than 100 studies have shown that lead paints are still widely sold in low- and middle-income countries. Most of the paints tested for lead were found to exceed the 90 parts per million (ppm) or 600 ppm legal limit that has been set by many countries as an achievable limit. In addition, many of these paints contained very high levels of lead: above 10,000 ppm of the dry weight of the paint. To see paint testing results by country, go to the link for the IPEN map entitled “Lead Levels in Paint Around the World” (see Endnote 5). IPEN is a Lead Paint Alliance partner and is an international public interest, non-profit organization comprised of hundreds of participating environmental and public health organizations in over 100 countries, primarily in developing and transition countries.

The Importance of Lead Paint Laws

The elimination of lead exposure at its source is the single most effective action to protect people from the harmful effects of lead. Most industrialized countries adopted laws or regulations to control the lead content of residential and decorative paints in the 1970s and 1980s, based on clear findings that lead-containing household paint is a major source of lead exposure in children. However, the continued use of lead in paint in many parts of the world remains a significant environmental source of human exposure. To protect human health, laws, regulations or enforceable standards are needed in every country to stop the manufacture, sale and import of lead-containing paints.

Global Approaches to Lead Paint Laws

Countries that have enacted laws to limit the lead content in paint have generally used one of two approaches: (1) establish a single regulatory limit on the total concentration of lead in paint from all sources (currently used in 35 countries) or (2) establish a set of chemical-specific regulatory limits based on the management of risks of individual lead compounds that are used as additives in paint (currently used in the EU's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical (REACH) regulation). Both approaches have been effective in limiting the lead content in paint.

90 ppm total lead is the concentration limit recommended by the "Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint". It is the lowest, most protective regulatory limit for lead paints that has been set in countries.

Legal Approach 1: Regulatory Limits on Total Lead Concentration

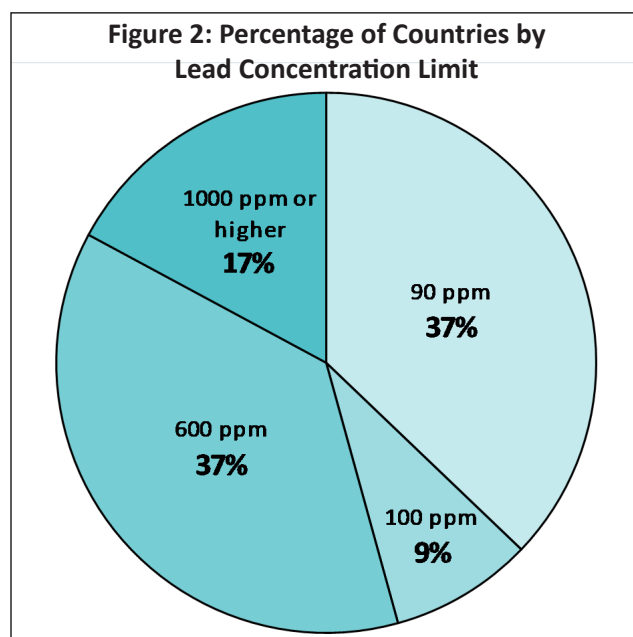
Of the 73 countries with lead paint laws, 35 countries have established a single regulatory limit on the total or soluble lead concentration in paint (in parts per million). These existing lead limits range from 90 ppm to 1,000 ppm or higher. Twenty-nine countries have a limit of 90, 100 or 600 ppm, which are all relatively low levels and indicate that lead compounds have probably not been added to the paint. Among countries with low limits, only one country uses a regulatory limit on soluble lead content, which is somewhat less protective than a limit on total lead content. There may be additional countries that also currently use a regulatory limit on soluble rather than total lead.

Table 2: Countries with Limits on Total Lead Concentration
(s) - limit applies to soluble lead content only

| 90 ppm | 100 ppm | 600 ppm | 1000 ppm or higher |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Bangladesh* | Switzerland | Argentina | Algeria |
| Canada | Thailand | Brazil | Armenia |
| Cameroon | United Republic of Tanzania | Chile | Australia |
| China (s) | | Costa Rica | Belarus |
| Ethiopia | | Dominica | Cuba |
| India | | Guyana | New Zealand |
| Iraq | | Mexico | |
| Israel* | | Oman | |
| Jordan** | | Panama | |
| Kenya | | South Africa | |
| Nepal | | Sri Lanka | |
| Philippines | | Trinidad and Tobago | |
| United States of America | | Uruguay | |

*New since 1 October, 2018
**The law has been updated

Figure 2: Percentage of Countries by Lead Concentration Limit



Legal Approach 2: Chemical-Specific Regulatory Limits

Chemical-specific regulatory limits are used by 38 countries, of which 31 have adopted the EU REACH regulation on lead compounds in paints. EU REACH restricts the addition of certain specific lead compounds to paints intended for supply to the general public, based on risk management assessments. Some specific lead compounds for use in paints are subject to an authorization procedure for manufacturers and importers that requires analyses of health and environmental risks and the availability of non-lead alternatives.

Table 3: Countries with Chemical-Specific Regulatory Limits

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Austria^ | Czech Republic^ | Germany^ | Italy^ | Lithuania^ | Netherlands^ | Portugal^ | Slovenia^ |
| Belgium^ | Denmark^ | Greece^ | Kazakhstan | Luxembourg^ | North Macedonia | Romania^ | Spain^ |
| Bulgaria^ | Estonia^ | Hungary^ | Kyrgyzstan | Malta^ | Russian Federation | Sweden^ | |
| Croatia^ | Finland^ | Iceland^ | Latvia^ | Monaco | Norway^ | Serbia | United Kingdom^ |
| Cyprus^ | France^ | Ireland^ | Liechtenstein^ | Montenegro | Poland^ | Slovakia^ | |

^Countries that have adopted the EU REACH regulation

UN Environment Regions

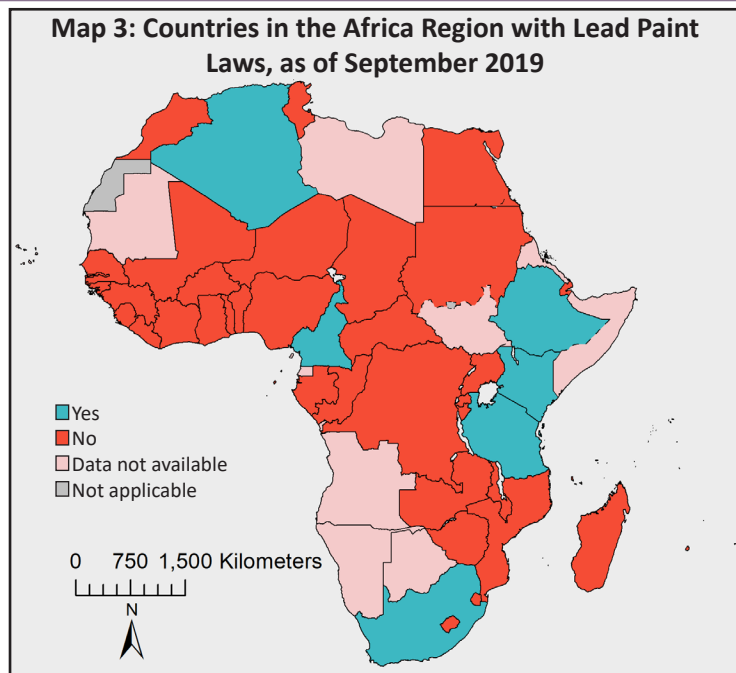
Table 4: Countries by UN Environment Region

(For the purposes of this report, countries are grouped into the six UN Environment regions.)

| Africa | | Asia and the Pacific | | West Asia | Europe | | Latin America and the Caribbean | North America |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Algeria | Mauritius | Afghanistan | Papua New Guinea | Bahrain | Albania | North Macedonia | Antigua and Barbuda | Canada |
| Angola | Morocco | Australia | Guinea | Iraq | Andorra | | Barbuda | United States of America |
| Benin | Mozambique | Bangladesh | Philippines | Jordan | Armenia | Poland | Argentina | |
| Botswana | Namibia | Bhutan | Republic of | Kuwait | Austria | Portugal | Bahamas | |
| Burkina Faso | Niger | Brunei | Samoa | Lebanon | Azerbaijan | Romania | Barbados | |
| Burundi | Nigeria | Darussalam | | Oman | Belarus | Russian Federation | Belize | |
| Cameroon | Rwanda | Cambodia | Singapore | Qatar | Belgium | | Bolivia | |
| Cape Verde | Sao Tome & Principe | China | Solomon Islands | Saudi Arabia | Bosnia and Herzegovina | San Marino | Brazil | |
| Central African Republic | Senegal | Democratic Republic of Korea | Sri Lanka | Syrian Arab Republic | Bulgaria | Serbia | Chile | |
| Chad | Seychelles | Timor-Leste | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Croatia | Slovakia | Colombia | |
| Comoros | Sierra Leone | Tonga | | Yemen | Cyprus | Slovenia | Costa Rica | |
| Congo | Somalia | Tuvalu | | | Czech Republic | Sweden | Cuba | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | South Africa | Vanuatu | | | Denmark | Switzerland | Dominica | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | South Sudan | Vietnam | | | Estonia | Tajikistan | Dominican Republic | |
| Djibouti | Sudan | Islamic Republic of Iran | | | Finland | Turkey | Ecuador | |
| Egypt | Togo | Japan | | | France | Turkmenistan | El Salvador | |
| Equatorial Guinea | Tunisia | Kiribati | | | Georgia | Ukraine | Grenada | |
| Eritrea | Uganda | Lao People's Democratic Republic | | | Germany | United Kingdom | Guatemala | |
| Eswatini | United Republic of Tanzania | Malaysia | | | Greece | Uzbekistan | Guyana | |
| Ethiopia | Zambia | Maldives | | | Hungary | | Haiti | |
| Gabon | Zimbabwe | Marshall Islands | | | Iceland | | Honduras | |
| Gambia | | Micronesia (Federated States of) | | | Ireland | | Jamaica | |
| Ghana | | Mongolia | | | Israel | | Mexico | |
| Guinea | | Myanmar | | | Italy | | Nicaragua | |
| Guinea-Bissau | | Nauru | | | Kazakhstan | | Panama | |
| Kenya | | Nepal | | | Kyrgyzstan | | Paraguay | |
| Lesotho | | New Zealand | | | Latvia | | Peru | |
| Liberia | | Pakistan | | | Liechtenstein | | Saint Kitts and Nevis | |
| Libya | | Palau | | | Lithuania | | Saint Lucia | |
| Madagascar | | | | | Luxembourg | | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | |
| Malawi | | | | | Malta | | Suriname | |
| Mali | | | | | Moldova | | Trinidad and Tobago | |
| Mauritania | | | | | Montenegro | | Uruguay | |
| | | | | | Netherlands | | Venezuela | |
| | | | | | Norway | | | |

Source: UN Environment

Map 3: Countries in the Africa Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019



Current Status

Six countries (11%) in the Africa Region have lead paint laws. Rwanda is drafting a regulation to implement an East African Community (EAC) regional standard and Zambia is finalizing a voluntary standard limiting lead content to 90 ppm to be incorporated later into a lead paint law. South Africa is working on revising an existing law to reduce the lead limit to 90 ppm and Côte d'Ivoire is drafting a law to make their voluntary standard of 90 ppm lead mandatory. The EAC agreed on regional lead paint standards setting the limit of lead in paint at 90 ppm to be finalized later this year.

Paint testing has been conducted in 21 countries in the African Region. Depending on the country study and the target level, levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 or 600 ppm ranged from 6% to 86% of samples (see Endnote 5). The annual economic cost of childhood lead exposure in the Africa region is estimated to be \$134.7 billion, or 4.03% of regional GDP (see Endnote 4).

Regional Activities

- September 2018: The seventh annual African Ministerial Conference on the Environment made a declaration on lead paint laws.
- November 2018: A side event on lead paint was held at the Third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa highlighting the importance of enacting national legislation to ban lead in paint.
- January 2019: The EAC Technical Committee on Paints, Varnishes and Other Products amended EAC standards to establish a 90 ppm limit for lead in paints.
- May 2019: Twenty governments along with civil associations, industry representatives and project advisors attended the Africa Regional Workshop, at which participants agreed to work toward lead paint laws.
- June 2019: The importance of lead paint elimination was discussed at the East African Coatings show and industry indicated non-lead additive alternatives were available and cost-effective.
- 21 events were held in 14 countries in the region during the 2018 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW).

Figure 3: Number of Countries in the Africa Region with Lead Paint Laws

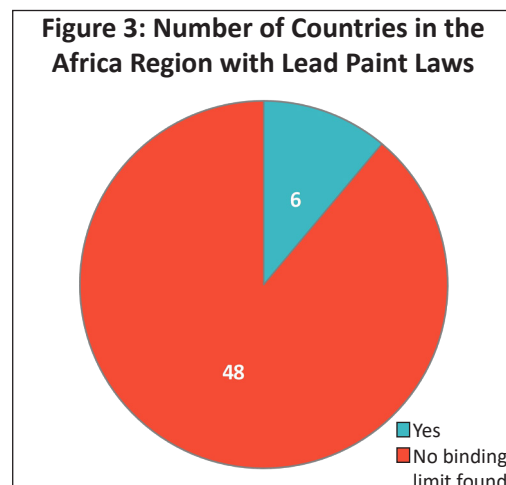
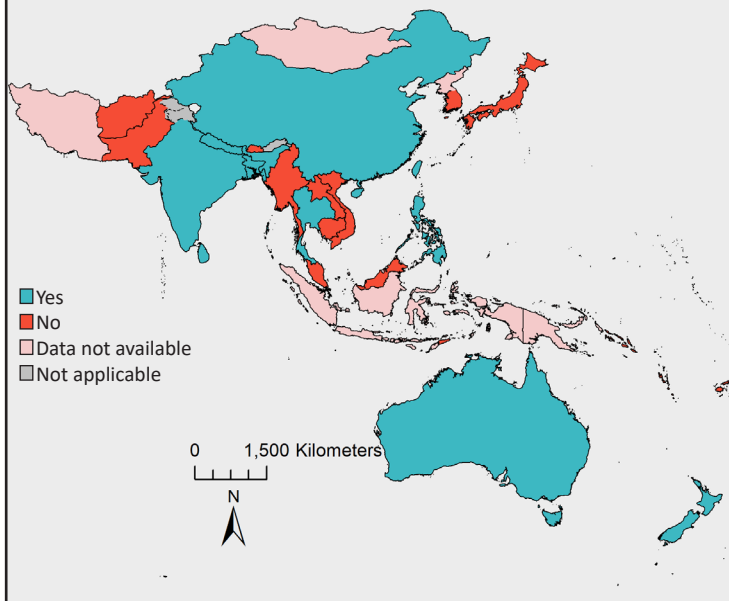


Table 5: 2019 Summary of Country-Specific Lead Paint laws in the Africa Region

| Country | Lead Paint Laws |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Algeria | 5000 ppm lead limit for manufacture, import and sale of paint |
| Cameroon | 90 ppm lead limit and restricts specific lead additives |
| Ethiopia | 90 ppm lead limit for manufacture, import, export, or sale of paint |
| Kenya | 90 ppm lead limit for manufacture, import, and sale of all paint; sampling and testing requirements |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 90 or 100 ppm lead limit, depending on the type of paint |
| South Africa | 600 ppm lead limit for manufacture, import and sale of paint; no testing or certification requirements |

Map 4: Countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019



Current Status

Nine countries (23%) in the Asia and Pacific Region have lead paint laws. The World Bank will be working with the Lao People's Democratic Republic on drafting a lead paint law.

Paint testing has been conducted in 14 countries in this region. Depending on the country studied and the target level, levels of lead exceeding target levels of either 90 or 600 ppm were found in approximately 16% to 95% of samples (see Endnote 5). The annual economic cost of childhood lead exposure in Asia is \$699.9 billion, or 1.88% of regional GDP (see Endnote 4).

Regional Activities

- September 2018: The US EPA met with the Government of Vietnam, NGO's and industry to discuss establishing a lead paint law.
- August 2019: Nine governments from Asia and the Pacific, along with civil associations, industry representatives and project advisors attended the Asia and the Pacific and West Asia Regional Workshop, at which participants agreed to work toward lead paint laws.
- 17 events were held in 11 countries in the region during the 2018 ILPPW.

Figure 4: Number of Countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region with Lead Paint Laws

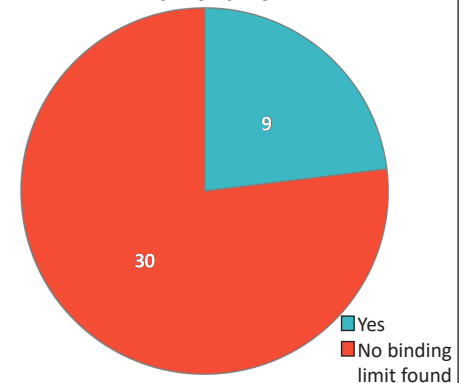
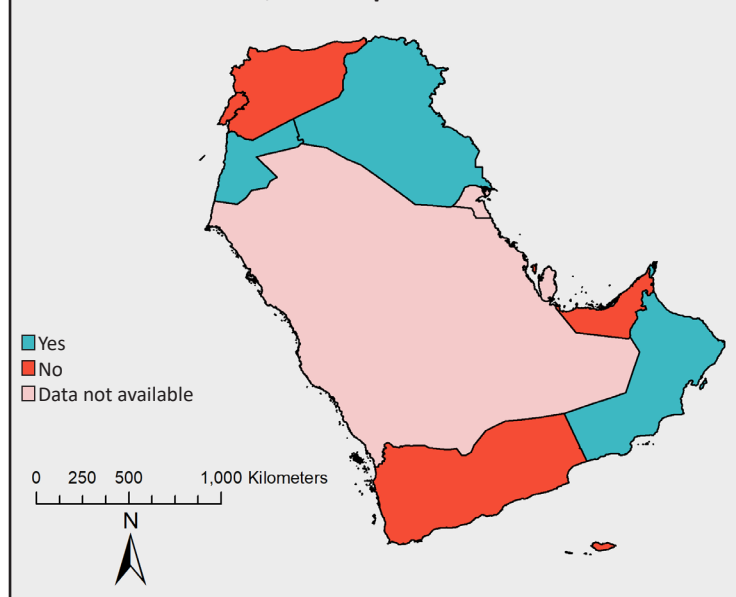


Table 6: 2019 Summary of Country-Specific Lead Paint laws in the Asia and the Pacific Region

| Country | Lead Paint Laws |
|-------------|--|
| Australia | 1000 ppm lead limit for the sale, manufacture, export and import of all paints |
| Bangladesh* | 90 ppm lead limit for decorative paints |
| China | 90 ppm soluble lead concentration limit for decorative, household and automotive paint; 1000 ppm soluble lead limit depending on the use of the paint |
| India | 90 ppm lead limit for manufacture, trade, import and export of household and decorative paints |
| Nepal | 90 ppm lead limit for any paint imported, produced, sold or used |
| New Zealand | 1000 ppm lead limit for the sale, manufacture, export and import of all paints |
| Philippines | 90 ppm lead limit for architectural, decorative, household and industrial paint |
| Sri Lanka | 90 ppm lead limit for interior and exterior emulsion paint or 600 ppm lead limit for floor and enamel paint; paints used in the building industry that contain lead must be labelled as such, including the lead content |
| Thailand | 100 ppm lead limit for all paint |

*New since 1 October 2018

Map 5: Countries in the West Asia Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019



Current Status

Three countries (27%) in the West Asia Region have lead paint laws. Jordan has revised an existing law to reduce the permitted concentration of lead in paints from 600 to 90 ppm. Lebanon is working on drafting a lead paint law.

Paint testing was conducted in three countries. In the country without laws (Lebanon), levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 or 600 ppm were found in 73% to 80% of samples respectively. In the countries with laws (Iraq and Jordan), levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 or 600 ppm were found in 12% to 42% of samples (see Endnote 5).

Regional Activities

- April 2019: The Jordan National Cleaner Production Centre (Royal Scientific Society) Launch Workshop initiated the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) demonstration activities in Jordan.
- August 2019: 2 governments from West Asia, along with civil associations, industry representatives and project advisors attended the Asia and the Pacific and West Asia Regional Workshop, at which participants agreed to work toward lead paint laws.
- 5 events were held in 4 countries in the region during the 2018 ILPPW.

Figure 5: Number of Countries in the West Asia Region with Lead Paint Laws

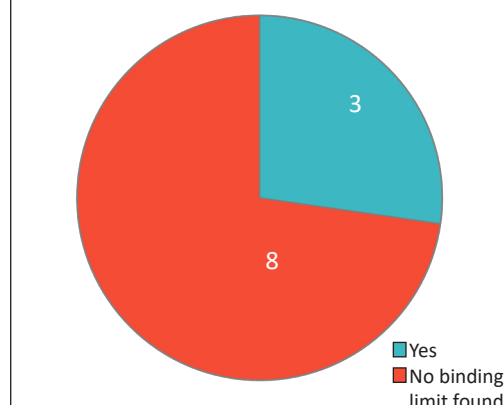
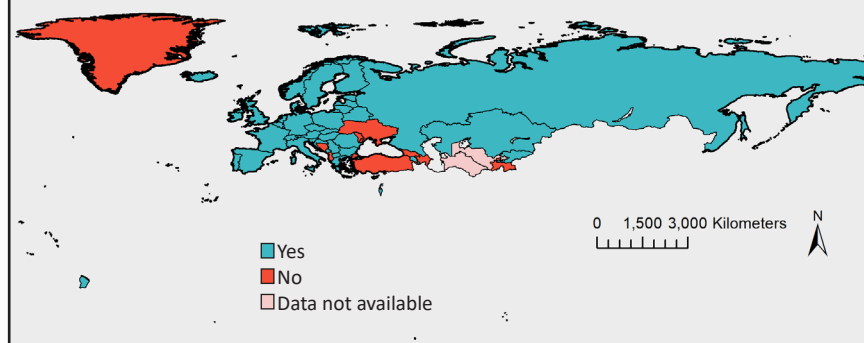


Table 7: 2019 Summary of Country-Specific Lead Paint laws in the West Asia Region

| Country | Lead Paint Laws |
|----------|--|
| Iraq | 90 ppm lead limit |
| Jordan** | 90 ppm total lead concentration limit for the import and sale of household and decorative paint; exceptions for industrial paints, car paints, road paints and artist's paints |
| Oman | 600 ppm total lead concentration limit for handling, use, import, or production of paints |

**The law has been updated

Map 6: Countries in the Europe Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019



Current Status

Forty-two countries (78%) in the Europe Region have lead paint laws. Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina are working on lead paint laws. Israel has a new technical standard for lead in paint.

Paint testing has been conducted in 10 countries in this region, some of which had existing laws. Depending on the country studied and the target level, levels of lead exceeding target levels of either 90 or 600 ppm were found in 26% to 94% of samples (see Endnote 5).

Regional Activities

- March 2019: Twelve governments, along with civil associations, industry representatives and project advisors attended the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Workshop, at which participants agreed to work toward lead paint laws.
- September 2019: The US Department of Commerce hosted a sub-regional meeting on lead paint elimination for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The workshop was to follow up on the March 2019 Regional workshop and provide additional advice on lead paint laws to countries in the sub-region.
- 20 events were held in 15 countries in the region during the 2018 ILPPW.

Figure 6: Number of Countries in the Europe Region with Lead Paint Laws

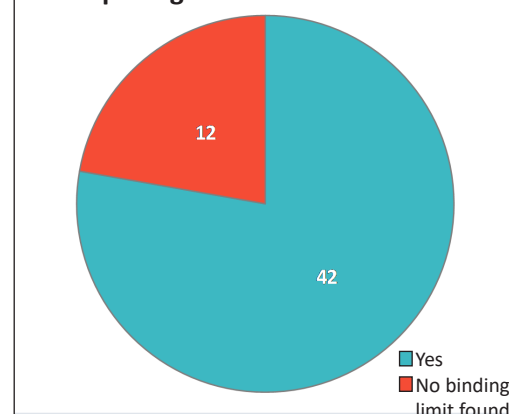


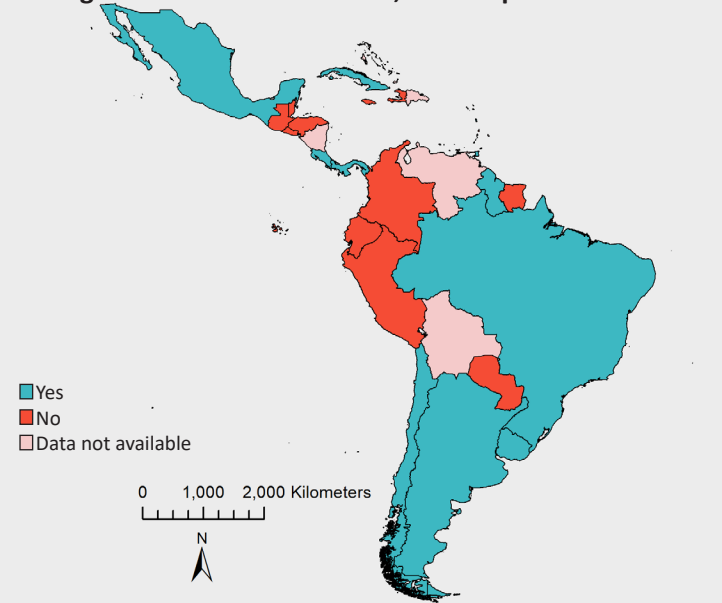
Table 8: 2019 Summary of Country-Specific Lead Paint laws in the Europe Region

| Country | Lead Paint Laws |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Armenia | 5,000 ppm limit for lead in driers in household paints and 150,000 ppm limit for lead in pigments in paints |
| Belarus | 5,000 ppm limit for lead in driers in household paints and 150,000 ppm limit for lead in pigments in all paints |
| 31 countries in Europe Region | EU REACH restricts the addition of certain specific lead compounds to paints intended for use by the general public |
| Israel* | 90 ppm lead limit for all paints |
| Kazakhstan | Restricts use of all lead compounds in paint intended for building interiors |
| Kyrgyzstan | Restricts use of all lead compounds in paint intended for building interiors |
| Monaco | Restricts use of certain lead compounds in paint |
| Montenegro | Restricts use of certain lead compounds in paint |
| North Macedonia | Restricts use of certain lead compounds in paint |
| Russian Federation | Restricts the use of lead and lead compounds in paints used for building interiors |
| Serbia | Restricts use of certain lead compounds in paint; for industrial paints containing lead, precautionary labelling is required |
| Switzerland | 100 ppm lead limit for all paints offered for sale by manufacturers |

*New since 1 October 2018

Latin American and the Caribbean

Map 7: Countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019



Current Status

Eleven countries (33%) in the Latin America and Caribbean Region have lead paint laws. Having passed laws much earlier than much of the rest of the world, most countries in this region have chosen to establish a 600 ppm total lead concentration limit, which was the US standard prior to 2009. Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico are working on updating existing laws and standards to reduce the limit on lead in paint from 600 ppm to 90 ppm.

Where paint testing was conducted in countries without lead paint laws (4 countries), levels of lead exceeding 90 or 600 ppm were found in 27% to 90% of samples, depending on the country study and the target level. In countries with laws (5 countries), levels of lead in paint exceeded target levels of 90 or 600 ppm in 0% to 100% of samples, depending on the country and the target limit (see Endnote 5). The annual economic cost of childhood lead exposure in Latin America and the Caribbean is \$142.3 billion, or 2.04% of regional GDP (see Endnote 4).

Regional Activities

- October 2018: A regional workplan including a goal to establish lead paint laws was approved at the XXI Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC countries.
- October 2018: The UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted a well-attended webinar for governments, NGOs and industry on “Regulating lead paint: overview in the LAC region and the experience of Brazil”.
- June 2019: Fifteen governments, along with civil associations, industry representatives and project advisors attended the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Workshop, at which participants agreed to work toward lead paint laws
- June 2019: The Andean Community National Cleaner Production Center Launch Workshop initiated SME demonstration activities in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
- June 2019: Lead paint laws were discussed at the Latin America Coatings Show 2019 in Mexico City, Mexico.
- 7 events were held in 5 countries in the region during the 2018 ILPPW.

Figure 7: Number of Countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region with Lead Paint Laws

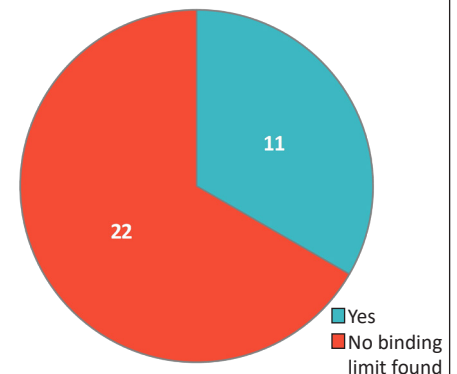
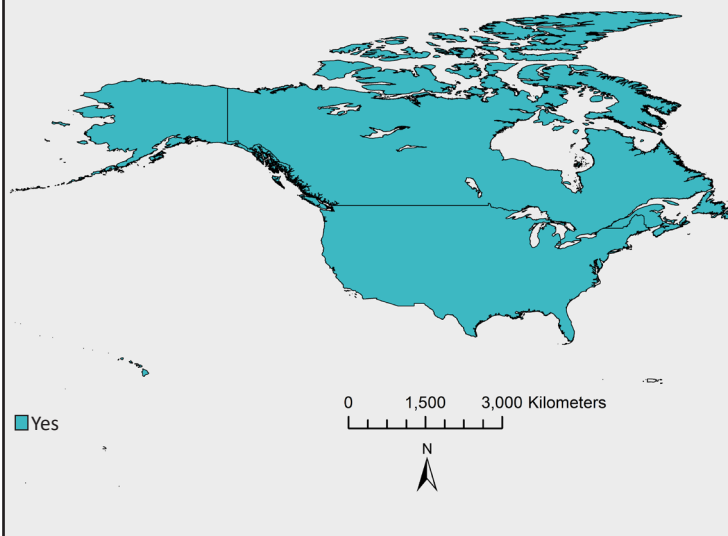


Table 9: 2019 Summary of Country-Specific Lead Paint laws in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

| Country | Lead Paint Laws |
|---------------------|--|
| Argentina | 600 ppm lead limit for the manufacture, import, distribution and marketing of paints; prohibits use of lead carbonate and lead sulphate and any other products containing these pigments |
| Brazil | 600 ppm lead limit for the manufacture, import, export and use of household paints |
| Chile | 600 ppm lead limit for import, export, and sale of paint; exemptions include agricultural and industrial equipment, bridges, road markings, artists' materials and other applications |
| Costa Rica | 600 ppm lead limit for the manufacture, import, export, and sale of paints |
| Cuba | 20,000 ppm lead limit for paint; some exceptions including artists paint and outdoor paint |
| Dominica | 600 ppm lead limit for household paint |
| Guyana | 600 ppm lead limit for the import and manufacture of paints |
| Mexico | 600 ppm lead limit for paint; some exceptions including coatings for automotive vehicles and industrial or agricultural and gardening equipment |
| Panama | 600 ppm lead limit for the manufacture, import, sale, and use of paint |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 600 ppm lead limit for the export, import, and manufacture of paint |
| Uruguay | 600 ppm lead limit for the production, import and sale of household and decorative paint; exemptions include paint for agricultural and industrial equipment, bridges, and road markings |

Map 8: Countries in the North America Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019

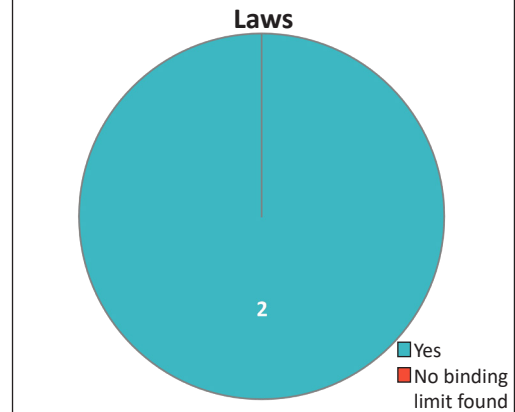


Current Status

Two countries (100%) in the North America Region have lead paint laws.

Paint testing was not conducted in this region.

Figure 8: Number of Countries in the North America Region with Lead Paint Laws



Regional Activities

- The United States is the Chair of the Lead Paint Alliance and works closely with UN Environment, WHO, Lead Paint Alliance partners and others to promote lead paint laws.
- October 2018: The UN Environment Regional Office for North America and the Pan American Health Organization raised awareness of the lead paint issue by co-sponsoring a Lead Paint Alliance Briefing for Embassies in Washington DC, which was hosted by the American Bar Association.
- 12 events were held in the region during the 2018 ILPPW.

Table 10: 2019 Summary of Country-Specific Lead Paint laws in the North America Region

| Country | Lead Paint Laws |
|---------------|--|
| Canada | 90 ppm lead limit for paints and certain other surface coating materials that are manufactured, imported, advertised or sold in Canada |
| United States | 90 ppm lead limit for paints for the manufacture, import and sale of household and decorative paints |

Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council

Governments



Colombia



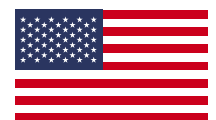
Kenya



Republic of Moldova



Thailand



United States of America

NGOs



Health and Environment Alliance



ABA RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

Industry



World Coatings Council

AkzoNobel



As of 30 September 2019, there are 95 partners of the Lead Paint Alliance representing 23 governments, 4 intergovernmental organizations, 42 non governmental organizations, 20 paint industry-trade associations and manufacturing companies, and 6 academic institutions. For more information on current partners or on how to become a partner visit: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint-1>

Endnotes - Sources of information referenced in this document

1. Lead Paint Alliance: <https://www.unenvironment.org/noleadinpaint>
2. WHO: Regulations and controls on lead paint (map and database): http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/
3. Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation GBD Compare: <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>
4. NYU Economic Costs of Lead Exposure: <https://med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/leadexposure>
5. IPEN Lead Paint Map: <http://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/lead-levels-paint-around-world>
6. Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint - provides countries with background and model language for developing lead paint laws: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/model-law-and-guidance-regulating-lead-paint>

Lead Paint Alliance

The Lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary, collaborative initiative co-led by UN Environment and WHO. The Lead Paint Alliance was formally launched in 2011 to help achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead from paints containing lead, and to minimize occupational exposure to lead paint. The current goal of the Lead Paint Alliance is to eliminate lead paint through the establishment of lead paint laws globally.

The Lead Paint Alliance promotes and coordinates the efforts of diverse stakeholders, including governments, industries, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, to protect people around the world from exposure to lead from paint. The top priority of the Alliance is the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to stop the manufacture, import, and sale of lead paint. The goal is that lead is phased out of ALL paints.

ACTION TOWARD LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION

INFORM: Conduct awareness raising and consumer education about the hazards of lead paint and to promote its elimination through lead paint laws.

ESTABLISH LAWS: Establish and implement protective legal limits on lead in paint using the *Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint* (see Endnote 5).

Acknowledgements

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