Overview of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and Global Status of Laws

Module A-2

Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint

Second Edition
Outline

• Overview of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
• Publications available from the Lead Paint Alliance
• Status of Lead Paint Laws globally
• Point of Contact
Brief Global History of Lead Paint Laws

**Early 1900s:** The hazard of lead paint was recognized by doctors a long time ago.

**1920s-30s:** Initial actions by countries to ban the use of lead carbonates and sulfates in paints through ILO Convention on White Lead. (Effective in 1923, ratified by 63 countries)

**1970s-90s:** A small number of countries began to look again at the problem of lead in paint, and to introduce more comprehensive laws.

**2000-2021:** Lead paint laws have become more restrictive as the health hazards of lead have become better understood and more countries are beginning to introduce laws.
Growing Momentum

Global

• **2009**: Lead in Paint as a SAICM Emerging Policy Issue
• **2011**: Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
• **2017**: Resolution on lead paint at the Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 3)
• **2017**: World Health Assembly Chemicals Management Roadmap
• **2019-2022**: SAICM GEF project: Aim for 40 or more countries to pass lead paint new laws or improve existing laws

Regional

• **2012-2015**: IPEN EU SWITCH-Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project (6 new regulations)
• **2014-2017**: UNEP-IPEN GEF Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa (4 new regulations)

National

• An increasing number of countries are drafting and passing laws

Visit [https://saicmknowledge.org/content/lead-paint-law-map](https://saicmknowledge.org/content/lead-paint-law-map) for up-to-date information
Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Lead Paint Alliance

• Modeled on successful Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles

• The lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary partnership jointly led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), it includes all relevant sectors (international organizations, governments, NGOs, industry).
  • The Alliance is guided by an Advisory Council which is chaired by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (see slide no.7)

• Lead Paint Alliance set a goal: The primary goal of the Lead Paint Alliance is to prevent children’s exposure to paint containing lead and to minimize occupational exposure to lead paint. Its broad objective is to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and to eventually eliminate the risks that such paints pose.
Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Continued)

Lead Paint Alliance

• **Works toward establishing lead paint laws in every country**
  - As of 31 December 2020, only 41% of countries have confirmed that they have legally binding controls on the production, import, sale and use of lead paint
  - Voluntary national standards and labelling not effective

• **Promote proven successful approach in countries**
  - Government engages with relevant ministries and stakeholders
  - Drafting group develops legal limit on lead in paint considering Model Law
  - Raise awareness to promote the law
The Lead Paint Alliance is guided by an Advisory Council (with members from governments, industry and NGOs)

The Advisory Council is advising the co-secretariat (UNEP and WHO) on the following points:

• Encourage the work of the Lead Paint Alliance.
• Review, monitor, propose, and assist in the implementation of actions and plans of the Lead Paint Alliance to promote consistency with the overall goal and objectives of the Lead Paint Alliance.
• Review progress of the Lead Paint Alliance activities.
The goal is to **establish lead paint laws** in every country

Lead paint elimination is gaining **momentum globally**

This problem can be solved in the **foreseeable future**

**Key steps** countries can take:

- Identify and obtain support from main government ministries and stakeholders for the development of lead paint laws
- Raise awareness about the need on establishing a legally binding control on lead paint
- Convene drafting committee to draft a law
- Conduct public review of draft law
- Promulgate the law
Model Law

- Alliance developed the Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint
- Requested by governments
- Supported by Industry and NGOs
- Provides best available and practical approach to a lead paint law
- Includes a 90 parts-per-million (ppm) total lead limit in paint
- Adaptable to each country’s regulatory framework

Lead Paint Laws
Mandatory legal mechanisms that establishes enforceable limit on lead in paint and binding control measures, with penalties for non-compliance.
Examples: regulations, statutes or mandatory standards

See Module E-1 for more information on developing legal limits on lead paint
Organizing Awareness-Raising Events

• One of the tasks of the Lead Paint Alliance is to raise awareness of the toxicity of lead to human health and the environment

• The Business Plan of the Lead Paint Alliance identifies an awareness campaign as a priority action

• The first International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week was established in 2013 – it takes place in the last full week in October

• Range of communication materials available in 6 UN languages for use in local campaigns

• The campaign-designated webpage is available in 6 UN languages. The event organizers can easily scroll down to access the repository of materials, registration form, list of registered events etc.

See Module E-3 for more information on conducting awareness-raising campaigns on lead and on International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of action

* Visit https://www.who.int/campaigns/international-lead-poisoning-prevention-week for more information on awareness-raising
Lead Paint Alliance: Successes and Challenges

Successes

- Development of tools and materials to support countries and stakeholders to adopt lead paint laws focusing on legal drafting, awareness-raising and technical aspects
- Support to countries in drafting and reviewing lead paint laws
- Over 100 Partners* from governments, NGOs, industry and academia
- Organization of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, with increased number of participants each year

Challenges

- Limited capacity and government commitments in developing countries to introduce and enforce lead limits
- Limited technical capacities or resources to formulate paint with no lead compounds
- Alternatives to lead additives not always available and lack of awareness of alternatives
- Need to engage with industry to promote compliance

*Visit [https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint-1](https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint-1) for up-to-date information
Publications from the Lead Paint Alliance

Policy and Technical Brief: why and how countries should take action

Model Law

Global Status Update: December 2020

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Campaign Materials

Updated Lead Paint Regulatory Toolkit

Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint

Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in blood

Steps to establish a lead paint law

Lead Paint Alliance quarterly newsletter

Visit https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint for more information
WHO is regularly updating an interactive map and database* showing status of national lead paint laws as provided by governments to UNEP and WHO.

The database shows the title, the year a country passed its lead paint law and a description of the law main provisions.

*Visit https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/indicator-groups/legally-binding-controls-on-lead-paint
Global Status Update on Lead paint Laws
Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in each UNEP Region

Data as of 31 December 2020, as presented in the 2020 UNEP Global Status Update

About 41% of countries (79) have laws

* For additional information, visit https://saicmknowledge.org/content/lead-paint-law-map
1. Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint website, hosted by UNEP - Access [here](#)

2. 2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint (2020)
   United Nations Environment Programme - Access [here](#)

3. Global Health Observatory: regulations and controls on lead paint
   World Health Organization – Access [here](#)

4. International Lead Poisoning Week of action– Access [here](#)
Please contact the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Chemical Safety and Health team of the World Health Organization should you have any questions.

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