Policy to Eliminate Lead in Paint: Lessons Learned in Israel

Module F-2

Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint

2021 Update
Regulatory Status of Eliminating Lead in Paint in Israel

Before Joining the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint in 2016:

• Lead restricted in paint used in toys (SI 562 part 3 “Safety Of Toys: Migration Of Certain Chemical Elements”) and furniture for children (SI 682 part 2, “Children's Cots And Folding Cots For Domestic Use”)

• Mandatory Standard No. 1343 Paints and Varnishes – General Requirements required labelling of paints with lead content above 0.15% (1500 ppm)

• Spray paints exempt from labelling requirement

• Many residential paints complied with voluntary requirements of “Green Label” (0.01% maximum content for all heavy metals)
Driving Factors - Actions on Lead Paint

• Ministry of Health from Israel joined the Global Alliance in 2016

• Part of broader approach at Ministry of Health in recent years to reduce potential sources of exposure to lead in consumer products and drinking water

• Ministries of Health and Economics elected to conduct screening-level tests of lead in paint and painted surfaces
Collecting Data on Lead in Painted Surfaces

- Lead levels exceeding 90 ppm in 22/25 painted surfaces in playgrounds
- We suspected that industrial paints were being used to paint these surfaces

Study was funded by the Environment and Health Fund in Jerusalem; full study available here
Collecting Data on Lead in Paints

• We sampled 8 solvent-based paints: none had lead levels above 90 ppm

• We sampled 6 spray paints (red, yellow, orange, green): 3 out of 6 had lead levels above 90 ppm, maximum level was 1200 ppm

• Ministry of Economy tested paint on the market in 2018: 1 (out of 3 tested) had 2.5% lead by weight, product was marketed for outdoor and indoor use

Study was funded by the Environment and Health Fund in Jerusalem; full study available here
Process that Resulted in Adopting a New Standard That Limit Lead in All Types of Paint

- Ministry of Health initiated meetings with paint manufacturers in Israel to present results

- In June 2018, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv organized a Roundtable Discussion on Lead in Paint

- Following that discussion, the technical committee at the Standards Institution voted unanimously to restrict lead concentration in all types of paint including industrial and spray paints
New Standard in Israel on Paint – SI 1343

• Standard is mandatory – legally binding

• Includes general requirements for paints and varnishes (no exemptions for spray paints or industrial paints) on...

  • Lead content has to be below 90 ppm, using testing procedure ASTM F2853-10 or CPSC-CH-E1003-09 (X-ray fluorescence spectrometry or Inductively Coupled Plasma spectroscopy)

  • Between May 2019 – January 2021 – both the old and the new standards were in force; beginning January 2021 only the new standard is in force

  • Mandatory batch testing combined with importer declaration starting from beginning May 2021
## Comparison of Previous and Updated Standard on Paint – SI 1343

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Updated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead content restriction</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (90 ppm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labeling requirement for lead paints</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempted paints</td>
<td>Spray paint</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contributors to Success in Approving New Standard

• Framing local effort as part of broad international effort (Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint)

• Data indicating that industrial paints containing lead are being used in areas which have potential exposure for children

• Open dialogue between government and representatives from industry and importers; roundtable discussion prior to formal Standards Institution meeting

• Regulatory flexibility – long phase out period (2 years), product testing combined with importer declarations on conformity of product to standard requirements
Evaluation of Impacts – Follow-up With Manufacturers and Importers April 2021

Paint Manufacturers

• “Phase out period was too short”
• “Getting lead out of paints expensive process”
• “We invested much time and effort in finding the right alternatives to produce certain color shades”
• “We do our own lead testing when importing from non-EU countries”

Importers / Chamber of Commerce

• Efforts to increase awareness among importers
• Possible that importers not associated with Chamber of Commerce unaware of new standard
• Follow up on impacts after testing required (at import points) beginning May 2021
Lessons Learned - Experience in Israel

**Identify the problem using testing**
*For Israel: Imported spray paints, industrial paints used in urban settings such as playgrounds*

**Identify the appropriate regulatory tool to solve the problem**
*For Israel: Mandatory standard*

**Engage stakeholders**
*For Israel: Visits to manufacturing sites, engaging general public (press release) local physicians and academics, roundtable discussion*

**Continued Vigilance – Awareness Raising and Enforcement**
*For Israel: Long process makes this challenging. Follow up spray paint testing in 2021; ongoing contact with Ministry of Economy regarding testing results*
Thank You

• Chuck Ashley from the US Embassy in Tel Aviv for organizing the Roundtable Discussion on Lead in Paint

• Angela Bandemehr, Evonne Marzouk, and Ellie Mccann from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for support in developing the new standard

• Joanna Tempowski from the World Health Organization for helpful information regarding policies to eliminate lead in paint

• Jeiel Guarino at IPEN for advice on strategy for testing lead paints

• Colleagues at the Israel Ministry of Health, Standards Institution and University of Haifa for collaboration on the pilot study

• Environment and Health Fund for funding the pilot study on lead in paints and painted surfaces
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