

Lead in paint in African region

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Awareness raising

- African countries are aware about lead problem on health as well as environmental impact when UNEP and UN countries members discussed about phasing out lead in gasoline and it continues now to lead paint problems.

Exposure to Lead: health aspect and workers health

Few african researchers and laboratories continue to provide informations about their efforts to determine lead content and its exposure risks and problems in the African region as technical basis to be considered by decision makers - specifically the environmental, industrial, health and workers sectors .

Meetings, technical exchanges and literatures at regional and international level help also the African region to improve knowledge about lead exposure and to justify the need to take measures regarding human and environmental health.

Existing uses of lead paint

- It is not possible to determine the products containing lead because packagings do not mention it.
- However, it is known that some manufacturers import lead pigment, but not specify its purpose.
- Only the laboratory testing is the way to prove lead paint content.
- Close collaboration between Governments and private laboratories is needed to work on lead paint issues.

Testing paint for lead content

- In Africa, some countries like Nigeria, Tanzania, Cameroun, Madagascar, Senegal.... have laboratory to define heavy metal.
- About paints, some tests have been done. For example in Nigeria lead content in paint found in 2006 is 84,8ppm to as high as 50,000 ppm in colored enamel household and automobile paints. The same fact does exist in many african countries, because imported products coming into all countries of the region are almost the same.

Applicable legislation

- For now, no legislation is available to prevent / forbid the use of lead in paint in Africa . However, some countries like Nigeria, Cameroun, Senegal, Madagascar, Niger, have started working on establishing legislation to phasing out lead in gasoline or to forbid the use of lead from acid battery.

Even laboratories tests proved the presence of lead in paint ,legislation to regulate lead exposure and its impacts is lacking, whereas economical, health and environmental effects are complementary.

- There is a need to have legislation that summarising forbidding all lead exposure in gasoline, paints etc in each African country and to have it applied.
- Communication exchange in the region constitute a big lack and is needed to be established, regarding any chemicals problems to evaluate effort.

Thank you

