

Second Meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

9-11 July 2012, Bangkok, Thailand

Prof Dr Vesna Matovic
University of Belgrade
Serbia

AWARENESS RAISING ABOUT THE RISKS FROM EXPOSURE TO LEAD

Three main activities concerning raising awareness of the risks of exposure to lead in Serbia are:

- educational activities at different levels, especially through toxicological courses at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade on lead and its toxicity, analytics, ecotoxicological and human health risk assessment
- activities of Serbian Society of Toxicology through lectures, courses and meetings
- implementation of regulatory frames concerning lead in environment, work places, consumer products, biological materials etc.

LEAD PAINT (1)

- The use of lead in paint is regulated by our national legislation which is in accordance with EU Regulation.
- Rulebook On Bans and Restrictions of Production, Placing on the Market and Use of Chemicals which Represent Unacceptable Risk on Human Health and Environment "Official Gazette of the RS" No 89/10, 71/11, 56/12. Lead carbonate (CAS 598-63-0) and Trilead-bis(carbonate)-dihydroxide (CAS 1319-46-6) lead sulphates (CAS No.7446-14-2) (CAS No.15739-80-7) shall not be placed on the market, or used, as substances or in mixtures, where the substance or mixture is intended for use as paint.

LEAD PAINT (2)

- In accordance with the provisions of International Labour Organisation ILO Convention 13 on the use of white lead and sulphates of lead in paint, the use of the substance or mixture for the restoration and maintenance of works of art and historic buildings and their interiors is permitted.

LEAD PIGMENTS

- Lead pigments such as Lead sulfochromate yellow; C.I. Pigment Yellow 34; and Lead chromate molybdate sulfate red; C.I. Pigment Red 104; are also banned (reproductive toxicity) with exception for industrial use but under specific conditions. These pigments have been recently categorized as substances of very high concern.

TESTING LEAD CONTENT

- Lead content in toys, commercial products etc. is regularly tested at the Institutes of Public Health

(As far as I know we do not have problems with lead in paints, toys, jewellery, consumer products etc. However, some products can not pass the control, occasionally but very seldom).

- Regarding lead free paints, on the label of industrial paints (the only ones that can contain lead pigments) the presence of lead has to be stated

Import of products potentially containing lead

- Serbian Chemicals Agency is responsible for chemical management and all manufacturers, importers, distributors and users are obliged to register all chemicals placed on the Serbian market.
- Institutes of Public health are obliged to do the testing of lead presence

LEGISLATION APPLIED IN SERBIA

- **Law on chemicals and secondary legislations of Serbian Chemicals Agency (2010)** regulate lead in residential and industrial paint.
- **Law on health safety of consumer products of Ministry of Health (2011)** and the **Rulebook** which is under development regulate lead in toys and consumer products

HEALTH ASPECTS

a) occupational exposure to lead

- Lead levels are regulated by Occupational Safety and Health Law and corresponding Rulebook (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy). This rulebook besides giving maximal allowable concentration for lead in air gives maximal allowable concentrations for lead in blood and urine as well as for biomarkers of lead effects (dehydratase of aminolevulinic acid, protoporphyrine)

HEALTH ASPECTS

b) general population

- Lead is monitored in air on national level as well as local ones regulated through the Law on air protection "Official Gazette" No. 36/2009 and through rules of secondary legislation.
- Lead is also regularly monitored in food and food products.
- Lead in blood or urine of residents are only the objectives of pilot studies and prospective epidemiological studies.
- Specific investigations have been performed and are still actual concerning lead in children, for example lead in children of Zajaca region.

It should be emphasized that leaded gasoline is not used in Serbia since 2010