

The Trajectory Ethiopia traverse in dealing with adverse effect of lead in Paints

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Introduction

- **Toxic effects of lead**
- **Higher levels of exposure to lead can cause damage to almost all systems in the body**
 - poor muscle coordination
 - nerve damage to the sense organs and nerves controlling the body
 - increased blood pressure
 - Kidney problems
 - hearing and vision impairment
 - reproductive problems

Lead poisoning

- “**Lead poisoning** remains one of the most important environmental **health concerns for children globally**, and lead paint is a major flashpoint for children’s potential lead poisoning.”
- “The adverse health effects of lead exposure in children are well described and include **intellectual and behavioral deficits**, making lead exposure an important public health problem. **No safe blood level in children has been identified.**”

Lead paint

- Lead is a toxic metal that can be found in paints when a paint manufacturer **intentionally adds** one or more lead compounds to paints

Lead Paint

- When lead compounds are used as ingredients (**as a pigment and drier**) in the manufacture of a paint product, the paint produced is considered to be “**lead paint**”
- Cognizant of the adverse effect of Lead , Ethiopia has conducted a study (PAN Ethiopia) on lead paints

Lead paint studies in Ethiopia

Paint studies

- **Two studies were conducted in Ethiopian paints**
 - **2013: 23 samples from 8 brands**
 - **2015: 36 samples from 9 brands**

Findings

- The findings of the study was very alarming
 - A total of twenty-three (23) paints from eight (8) brands were analysed for total lead
 - 20 of the paints tested (87%) had lead concentrations >90 ppm
 - 19 of the paints tested (83%) had lead concentrations >600 ppm
 - One or more paints from each brand had lead content >600 ppm

Cont'ed

- **7 of the paints tested (30%) had extremely high lead content, greater than 10,000 ppm**
 - **Greater than one hundred times the lead content than would be permitted in the US**
- **The paint sample with the highest lead content had 130,000 ppm lead**
 - **1,400 times greater than would be allowed for use or sale in the US**

2015 sample (Second batch)

- A total of 36 paints from 9 brands were analysed for total lead
- 28 of the paints tested (78%) had lead concentrations greater than 90 ppm
- One or more paints from eight of the brands, with the exception of one brand, had lead content greater than 10,000 ppm

Cont'ed

- The findings coupled with seriousness of the adverse health effect of lead in paints **has triggered the formulation of Regulations and Standards on Lead in Paints in Ethiopia**

Activities prior to the formulation of the regulation

- With support from IPEN, GEF/UNEP, PAN-Ethiopia & MEFCC have been engaged in awareness creation and raising and policy framework in the implementing countries.
- Consequently, relevant stakeholders including governmental organizations e.g (MEFCC), paint factories, NGOs and Medias were involved since the project inception in the awareness creation and raising outreach activities.

Cont . . .

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- MEFCC has been working in collaboration with PAN-Ethiopia to develop a lead paint regulation.
- With the objective to get **inputs** from stakeholders and determine the **legal limits** of lead; MEFCC and PAN-Ethiopia organized a stakeholders' consultation workshop in Adama, Ethiopia.

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- A total of 33 participants from different organizations took part in the workshop.
- MEFCC and PAN-Ethiopia covered the expenses of the workshop
- This is an indication of the commitment of the Ethiopian government to eliminate Lead in paints



Outcomes of the workshop

- Given the economic and human health impacts lead poisoning can cause, all the stakeholders agreed that lead paint regulation is imperative
- All the stakeholders (including the paint manufacturers) agreed 90ppm total lead should be the limit
- Special license for the paint factories was debated but finally agreed to be given together with other environmental compliance certificates.

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- Two years of grace period was not agreed. (Subject to available stock and market). So, this issue will be discussed with more paint factories to get inputs.
- All the participants agreed that labeling should be mandatory.

Salient Points of the Regulation

No paint factory will produce, import, distribute, sell and export a paint with lead content more than 90 ppm

The regulation will not be applicable to Paints produced, stored or imported prior to the enactment of regulation

A grace period of two year will be given to existing factories to comply with regulation

- Any existing factory should produce and submit **plan of action** how to be able to comply with the regulation or produce paint with lead content less than 90 ppm

Offences Relating to illegal production

- A natural person commits an offence if he produces paints contrary to the provisions of this regulation issued hereunder and is liable, on conviction,
- to a fine of not less than 300,000 Birr (14,000 USD) and not
- more than 500,000 Birr (23,000 USD) or to an imprisonment of not less than five year and not more than ten years or both

- **Thank you**