



World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Newsletter

May 2016

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) at UNEA 2

At the second United Nations Environment Assembly, governments have the opportunity to learn about one of the most significant environmental public health threats today: children's exposure to lead in paints. Paint with added lead is causing lifelong health impacts to our children from lead poisoning.

There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered to be safe. Yet in many countries, it is still legal to use lead paint for decorating homes, schools, and children's toys. Lead is added to paints for color and other properties, but it is not needed! Lead-free additives are affordable and easily available.

Both industry and governments agree that the solution is enacting and enforcing lead paint laws in countries worldwide. This will help drive the market to stop adding lead to paint, and will help eliminate this global health threat.

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), a voluntary collaboration among governments, industry, and NGOs, is working to prevent exposure, especially of children, to lead from paints. By supporting the efforts of the Lead Paint Alliance, partners are working together to end the public health threat of lead in paint. This newsletter summarizes tools and progress to date of the Lead Paint Alliance.

You can protect your country's children from the many impacts of lead paint exposure by working to eliminate lead from paint. Learn more at:

www.unep.org/noleadinpaint.

"There is no justification for the continued use of lead compounds in any paint and it is time for the global paint industry and its suppliers to show leadership of this issue and make a voluntary and proactive commitment to stop the manufacture and supply of all paints containing lead compounds."

- Julian Hunter, Senior Manager of Product Safety and Regulatory Affairs at AkzoNobel

<https://newsroom.akzonobel.com/newsroom/list?id=eliminatingleadfrompaint>

DID YOU KNOW ?

- Lead exposure causes 0.6% of the global burden of disease, with the highest burden in developing countries
- Economic losses due to children's reduced IQ from preventable lead exposure are significant
- At least 65 countries do not have legally-binding restrictions on lead in paint
- Paints with lead concentrations higher than 10,000 ppm are still available in most developing countries

Regional Workshops on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint

In June 2014, the United Nations Environment Assembly (Resolution 1/5 Chemicals and Waste VI on lead and cadmium) requested "the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the World Health Organization, to continue to build capacity on lead paint through possible regional workshops". Since then, regional workshops on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint have been held for countries in East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2-3 December 2015) and in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Chisinau, Moldova, 19-20 May 2016). Moreover, an inception workshop of a UNEP project "Promoting elimination of the use of lead paints in China and Africa" was held in Beijing, China on 26-27 April, 2016. The momentum will continue with a second East Africa Sub-regional Action Plan Development Workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 14-15 June, 2016.

Throughout the workshops, government officials and stakeholders were encouraged to:

- Share information on the health and environmental risks of the lead in paint
- Exchange information on government policies and stakeholder actions, and available

tools and experiences towards the elimination of lead in paint

- Develop strategies for establishing legal limits on lead in paint at national, regional, and/or sub-regional levels
- Agree on approaches to developing national policy and regulations to limit lead in paint.

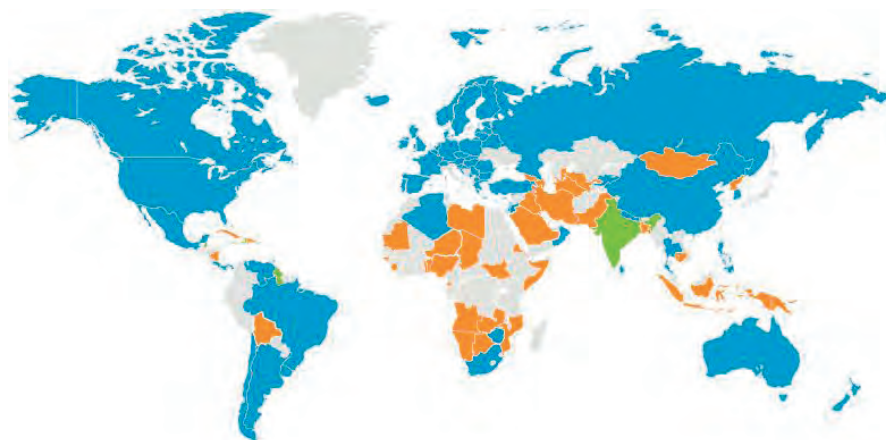
African Governments Committed to Phase Out Lead in Paint

Government officials and stakeholders from 15 African countries gathered on 2-4 December to cooperate to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020. The East Africa Sub-Regional Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and IPEN in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop trained participants to use the recently launched toolkit for establishing laws to control the use of lead in paint.

During the workshop, participants shared their national experience, reviewed existing policies and initiatives, and discussed plans to phase out lead paint in African countries. Invited speakers and technical experts described the risks of lead in paint and encouraged national implementation strategies to support the development of legal limits on lead in paint.

All participants at the workshop agreed that efforts are needed in each country to phase out lead paint and to set a total lead content limit of 90 ppm. Mr. Mehari Wondimagegn, Director of Ethiopia's the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, announced the development of draft regulation for consideration by the Ethiopian Council of Ministries to establish a 90 parts per million (ppm) standard for decorative paints in Ethiopia. An East Africa Standard, applicable to five East African countries, is also being developed to limit the lead content in decorative paint. Similar initiatives exist in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

GLOBAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF LEGAL LIMITS ON LEAD IN PAINT



Over the years, legal restrictions on lead have successfully decreased the use of lead in fuel, plumbing and other products and processes. These restrictions have effectively reduced the level of lead exposure in human populations. However, paints containing lead are still widely manufactured and purchased in many countries across the world. Now a new global status report on phasing out lead paint presents additional information for 128 countries regarding the existence of laws and regulations that establish legal limits on lead in paint.

The report builds on a document «Status of the phasing out of lead paint by countries: 2015 Global report» presented by WHO and UNEP at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in September 2015. The new report identified several additional countries that have established legally binding limits on lead in paint as of early 2016. Among the countries with legally binding limits on lead in paint, there is a range of approaches to regulating the lead content and use of lead paint. While most of the countries with lead paint controls that regulate the manufacture, export, import, and sale of lead paint, the laws in several countries are not comprehensive and still allow lead paint to be manufactured, exported, imported or sold. A detailed analysis found that 53 of the countries assessed establish labelling requirements, while only 17 countries require that paint be tested and certified for lead content. Most of the countries with lead paint controls have established enforcement provisions to ensure compliance with their lead limits.

The report is launched at UNEA 2 and is available at: www.unep.org/noleadinpaint

On 29 January, 2016, Thailand issued compulsory legislation controlling the amount of lead and other heavy metals in enamel paints, effective January 2017. According to this national decree, all enamel paints used for construction and decorative purposes which are manufactured or sold in Thailand must meet the following requirements:

- No more than 0.01% lead (100 ppm), mercury and cadmium (dry weight)
- No more than 0.1% hexavalent chromium (dry weight)

In addition, all alkyd enamel paints manufactured or sold in Thailand will be required to show a warning label about potential dangers from the product, for example, “contains toxic substance” or “keep away from children.” The non-governmental organization EARTH, an IPEN participating organization, led the campaign for lead paint elimination in Thailand.



NEW MAP DEMONSTRATES ECONOMIC COST OF CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING



Economic Costs of Childhood Lead Exposure
in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

PPG Industries will phase out lead from all paints by 2020

On April 21, 2016, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that PPG Industries, a US based paint giant, will phase out lead from all of its paints by 2020. Michael McGarry, president and CEO of PPG, told shareholders at the company's annual meeting that PPG's sustainability committee adopted the new policy to reduce and eventually eliminate lead from its industrial paints that are used for automobiles, heavy equipment, bridges, airplanes and other applications. PPG eliminated lead from its household paints several years ago. During the meeting, Perry Gottesfeld, executive director of Occupational Knowledge International, a Lead Paint Alliance partner, asked the company to stop making and distributing lead paint and presented a petition signed by more than 5,700 people. This is an excellent move that other paint manufacturers are expected to follow.

Children's developing brains are permanently harmed by exposure to lead. The resulting damage has an economic cost, but without clear estimates at the country level, the real impact can be hard to understand.

Now a new map reflects research by New York University (NYU) estimating these economic costs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The research indicates that lead exposure is a major contributor to children's impaired cognitive development in LMICs, which translates into a cost of \$977 billion (range \$728.6–1162.5 billion) of international dollars. Overall, the economic burden associated with childhood lead exposure in these countries amounted to 1.20% of world GDP in 2011.

The new interactive map allows users to view cost and GDP percentage lost for 110 LMICs around the world, including specific data for each country and how each country compares to its region. Additional comparison with developed countries and with official development assistance (ODAs) dollars is also provided, along with links to the full report and supplemental information.

How does childhood lead exposure impact your country and others around the world?

Visit this excellent resource to find out: nyulmc.org/pediatricleadexposure

Then, share this information and take action to protect your children and your nation's future!

INDUSTRY'S ACTIVE SUPPORT

The International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC) works to improve communication and coordinate policy on matters of international concern to the paint and printing inks industry. To continue its support for the Lead Paint Alliance (LPA), in early March 2016 IPPIC held its annual meeting in Tokyo, Japan, including a joint session with representatives from the Asian Paint Industry Council (APIC). At the meeting:

- APIC participants formally endorsed the IPPIC Policy Statement in support of lead paint restrictions and affirmed support for IPPIC's continued engagement with the LPA on behalf of the global industry.
- APIC representatives from the Philippines provided insights on their cooperative engagement with governments and NGO's which has resulted in the establishment of consensus restrictions on lead use in paints.
- Additional APIC representatives from the Republic of Korea and Thailand also reported constructive engagement with governments seeking further restrictions on lead in paints.
- A new IPPIC LPA Work Group was formed to assist in advancing industry communications and active support for the LPA, including providing industry views about cooperation with governments on establishing lead paint laws.

For additional information, contact the IPPIC Secretariat at secretariat@ippic.org

UNIDO working in Andean Countries

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) joined the Lead Paint Alliance in 2014. It works closely with National Cleaner Production Centres and national governments towards the phase-out of lead in paint. It is developing a project in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru to assist governments and industry to introduce legal limits to lead in paint and apply best available technologies.



Paint Manufacturer in Colombia



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in Cameroon

NGOs AND GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER

- The Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa, funded by the Global Environment Fund, executed by IPEN and implemented by UNEP, has made important progress in focus countries Ethiopia, Cameroon, Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire.
- In China, the NGO Insight Explorer and IPEN released a new lead paint report in January 2016, showing that more than half of the paints analyzed may exceed Chinese lead paint limits.
- NGO activities were conducted in more than 20 countries during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, highlighting the hazards of lead paint.

The NGO network IPEN, a Lead Paint Alliance partner, brings together environmental and public health groups around the world to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect human health and the environment. IPEN is implementing lead paint elimination activities in many countries, including:

- Four of the seven countries in IPEN's EU-funded Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project have now enacted lead paint regulations, the most recent in Thailand.

JOIN THE LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE
WWW.UNEP.ORG/NOLEADINPAINT

INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) started in 2013 has become a regular event that takes place in the last full week of October. The ILPPW is an initiative of the Lead Paint Alliance, with the aim of raising awareness worldwide about lead poisoning and encouraging action to eliminate the use of lead in paint. In the 2015 ILPPW events took place in 87 cities in 39 countries. These ranged from art competitions, plays, demonstrations and statements of support to policy debates, workshops and scientific conferences. Social media were widely used. All kinds of organizations were involved in these events, including non-governmental organizations, government bodies, paint manufacturers and academic institutions. The Lead Paint Alliance set a target that by 2015 there would be national awareness days for the prevention of lead poisoning in 10 countries and by 2020 in 40 countries. The 2015 target has been exceeded but it is important to keep up the momentum to ensure that the 2020 target is reached (or better, exceeded). For more information about ILPPW, including a short report of the 2015 activities, please visit www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/

The 2016 ILPPW will take place on 23-29 October.

PARTNERS

The Lead Paint Alliance welcomes Eco Ethics Kenya, Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kenya), the Ministry of Environment, Urban Safety and Sustainable Development (Niger), Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines Inc. (Philippines), and the Government Chemistry Laboratory Agency (Tanzania) as new partners.

Currently 57 partners have joined the Lead Paint Alliance: 18 governments, 3 intergovernmental organizations, 29 non-governmental organizations, 3 industry-related organizations, and 4 academics.

For more information, please contact us at: noleadpaint@unep.org

LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE REGULATORY TOOLKIT

Toolkit for establishing laws to control the use of lead in paint



Available online

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadpaint/toolkit>

with additional modules on *economic costs* and *case studies*