

Overview of the
**Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint
and Global Status of Laws**

**Toolkit for establishing
laws to eliminate
lead paint**

Second Edition

Module A-2

UN 
environment
programme

50 
1972-2022

**Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint**



**World Health
Organization**

Outline

- **Overview of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint**
- **Publications** available from the Lead Paint Alliance
- **Status** of Lead Paint Laws globally
- Point of Contact



Brief Global History of Lead Paint Laws



Early 1900s:

The hazard of lead paint was recognized by doctors a long time ago

1920s-30s:

Initial actions by countries to ban the use of lead carbonates and sulfates in paints through ILO Convention on White Lead. (Effective in 1923, ratified by 63 countries)

1970s-90s:

A small number of countries began to look again at problem of lead in paint, and to introduce more comprehensive laws.

2000-2021:

Lead paint laws have become more restrictive as the health hazards of lead have become better understood and more countries are beginning to introduce laws.

Growing Momentum

Global

- **2009:** Lead in Paint as a SAICM Emerging Policy Issue
- **2011:** Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
- **2017:** Resolution on lead paint at the Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 3)
- **2017:** World Health Assembly Chemicals Management Roadmap
- **2019-2022:** SAICM GEF project: Aim for 40 or more countries to pass lead paint new laws or improve existing laws

Regional

- **2012-2015:** IPEN EU SWITCH-Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project (6 new regulations)
- **2014-2017:** UNEP-IPEN GEF Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa (4 new regulations)

National

- An increasing number of countries are drafting and passing laws

Visit <https://saicmknowledge.org/content/lead-paint-law-map> for up-to-date information

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Lead Paint Alliance

- **Modeled on successful Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles**
- **The lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary partnership** jointly led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), it includes all relevant sectors (international organizations, governments, NGOs, industry).
 - The Alliance is guided by an Advisory Council which is chaired by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (*see slide no.7*)
- **Lead Paint Alliance set a goal:** The primary goal of the Lead Paint Alliance is to prevent children's exposure to paint containing lead and to minimize occupational exposure to lead paint. Its broad **objective** is to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and to eventually eliminate the risks that such paints pose.

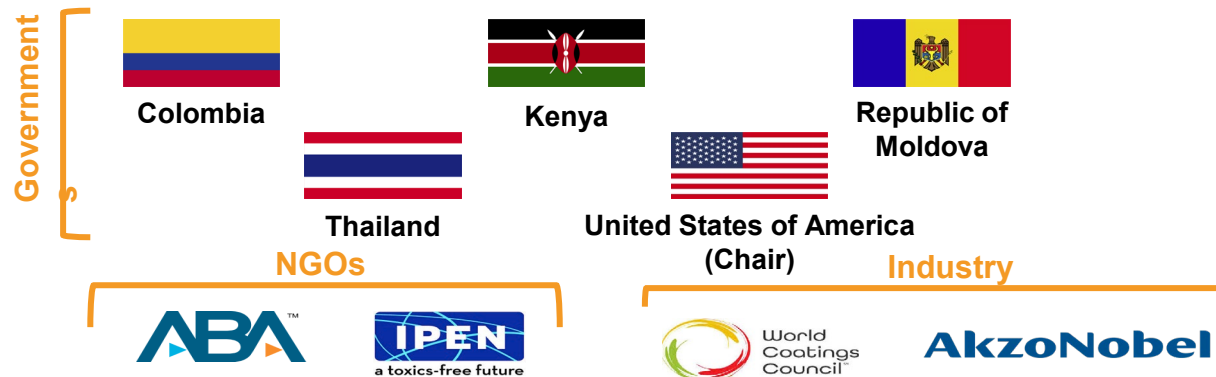
Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Continued)

Lead Paint Alliance

- **Works toward establishing lead paint laws in every country**
 - As of 31 December 2020, only 41% of countries have confirmed that they have legally binding controls on the production, import, sale and use of lead paint
 - Voluntary national standards and labelling not effective
- **Promote proven successful approach in countries**
 - Government engages with relevant ministries and stakeholders
 - Drafting group develops legal limit on lead in paint considering Model Law
 - Raise awareness to promote the law

Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council

- **The Lead Paint Alliance is guided by an Advisory Council** (with members from governments, industry and NGOs)



- The Advisory Council is advising the co-secretariat (UNEP and WHO) on the following points:
 - Encourage the work of the Lead Paint Alliance.
 - Review, monitor, propose, and assist in the implementation of actions and plans of the Lead Paint Alliance to promote consistency with the overall goal and objectives of the Lead Paint Alliance.
 - Review progress of the Lead Paint Alliance activities.

Solving the Problem Together

How it can be done



The goal is to **establish lead paint laws** in every country



Lead paint elimination is gaining **momentum globally**



This problem can be solved in the **foreseeable future**

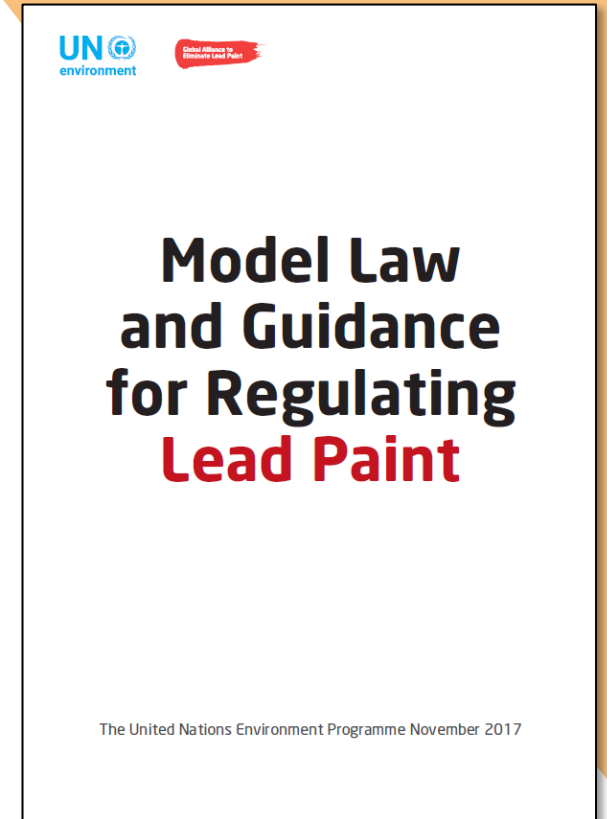


Key steps countries can take:

- ✓ Identify and obtain support from main government ministries and stakeholders for the development of lead paint laws
- ✓ Raise awareness about the need on establishing a legally binding control on lead paint
- ✓ Convene drafting committee to draft a law
- ✓ Conduct public review of draft law
- ✓ Promulgate the law

Model Law

- Alliance developed the **Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint**
- Requested by governments
- Supported by Industry and NGOs
- Provides **best available and practical approach** to a lead paint law
- Includes a **90 parts-per-million (ppm) total lead limit** in paint
- **Adaptable** to each country's regulatory framework



Lead Paint Laws

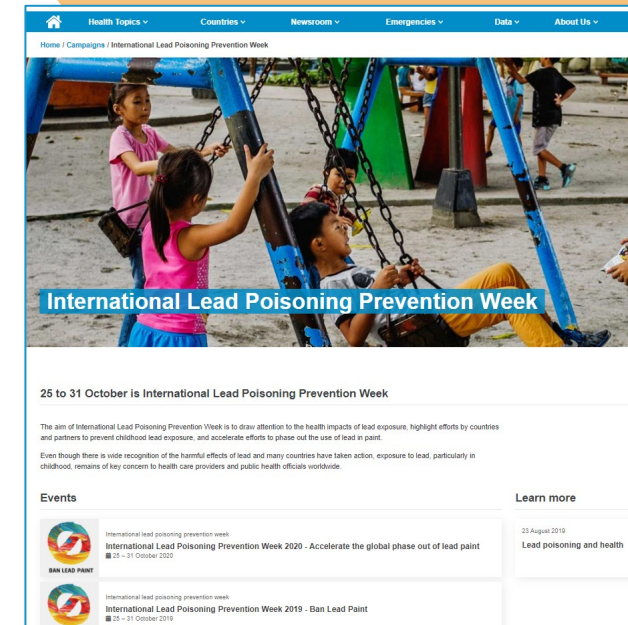
Mandatory legal mechanisms that establishes enforceable limit on lead in paint and binding control measures, with penalties for non-compliance.

Examples: regulations, statutes or mandatory standards

See Module E-1 for more information on developing legal limits on lead paint

Organizing Awareness-Raising Events

- One of the tasks of the Lead Paint Alliance is to raise awareness of the toxicity of lead to human health and the environment
- The Business Plan of the Lead Paint Alliance identifies an awareness campaign as a priority action
- The first International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week was established in 2013 – it takes place in the last full week in October
- Range of communication materials available in 6 UN languages for use in local campaigns
- The campaign-designated webpage is available in 6 UN languages. The event organizers can easily scroll down to access the repository of materials, registration form, list of registered events etc.



*** Visit**
<https://www.who.int/campaigns/international-lead-poisoning-prevention-week>
for more information on awareness-raising

See Module E-3 for more information on conducting awareness-raising campaigns on lead and on International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of action

Lead Paint Alliance: Successes and Challenges

Successes



Development of tools and materials to support countries and stakeholders to adopt lead paint laws focusing on legal drafting, awareness-raising and technical aspects



Support to countries in drafting and reviewing lead paint laws



Over 100 Partners* from governments, NGOs, industry and academia



BAN LEAD PAINT

Organization of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, with increased number of participants each year

Challenges



Limited capacity and government commitments in developing countries to introduce and enforce lead limits



Limited technical capacities or resources to formulate paint with no lead compounds



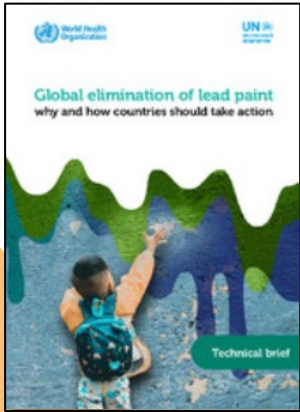
Alternatives to lead additives not always available and lack of awareness of alternatives



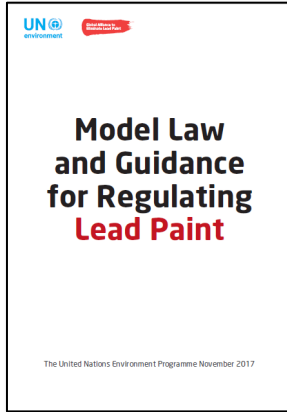
Need to engage with industry to promote compliance

Publications from the Lead Paint Alliance

Visit <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint> for more information



Policy and Technical Brief: why and how countries should take action



Model Law



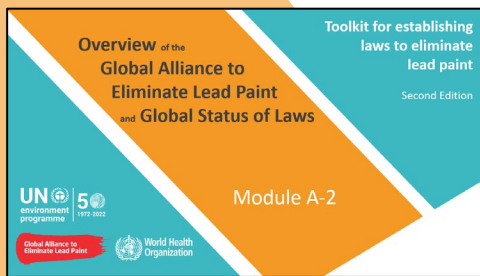
Global Status Update: December 2020



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Campaign Materials



Lead Paint Alliance quarterly newsletter



Updated Lead Paint Regulatory Toolkit



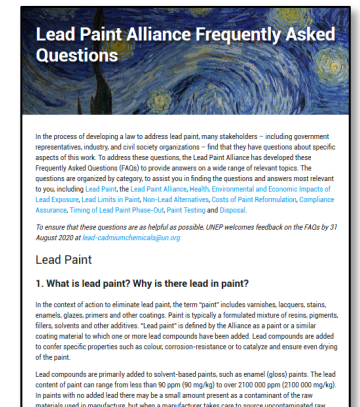
Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint



Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in blood



Steps to establish a lead paint law



Lead Paint Alliance FAQ

Lead Paint Law Status

Global Health Observatory, as of 31 December 2020

WHO is regularly updating an **interactive map and database*** showing **status** of national lead paint laws as provided by governments to UNEP and WHO.

The database shows the title, the year a country passed its lead paint law and a description of the law main provisions.



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Data Source: World Health Organization / United Nations Environment Programme
Map Production: WHO GIS Centre for Health, DNA/DDI

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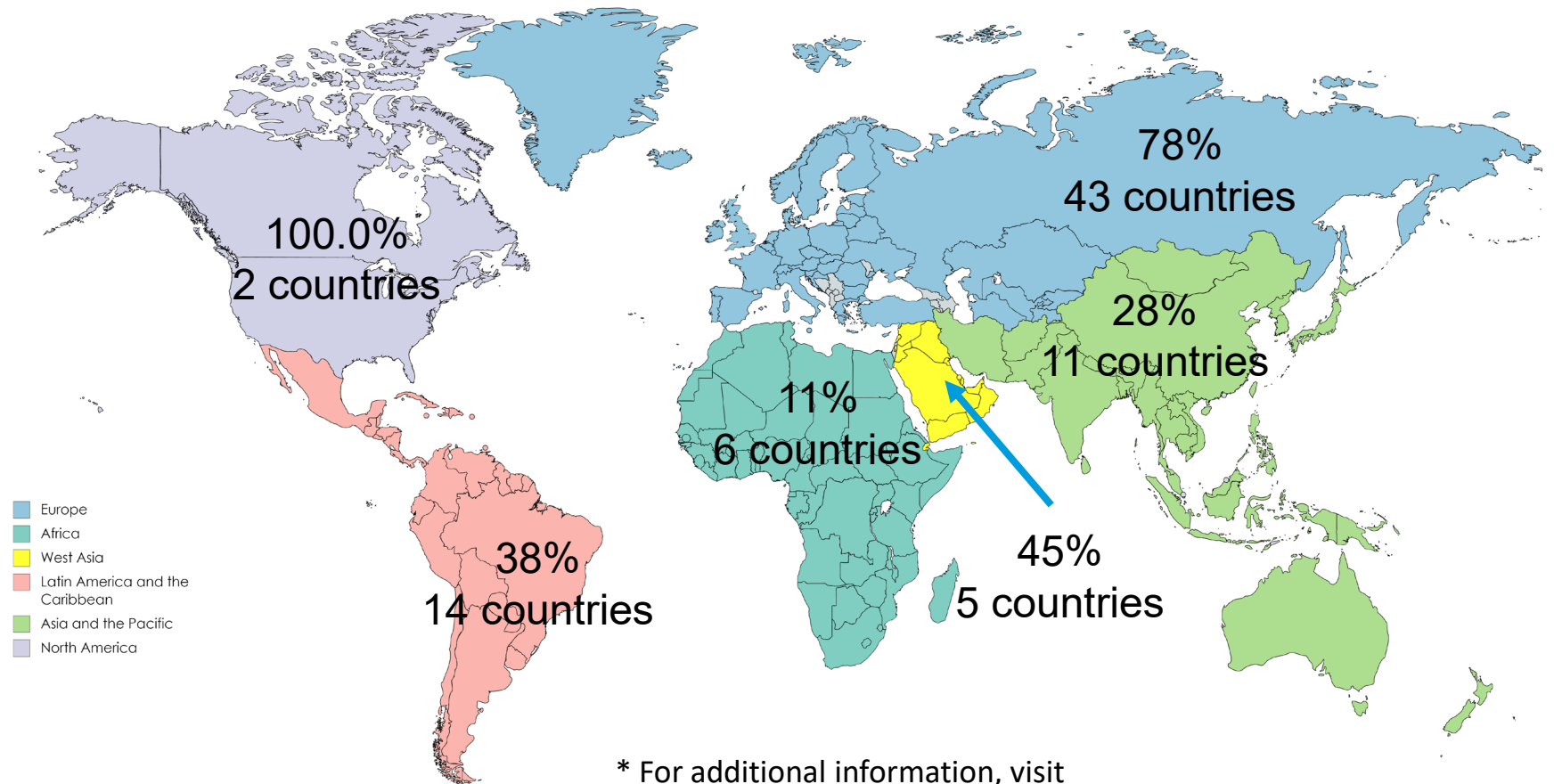
*Visit <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/indicator-groups/legally-binding-controls-on-lead-paint>

Global Status Update on Lead paint Laws

Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in each UNEP Region

Data as of **31 December 2020**, as presented in the 2020 UNEP [Global Status Update](#)

About **41%** of countries (79) have laws



* For additional information, visit

<https://saicmknowledge.org/content/lead-paint-law-map>

References

- 1. Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint website, hosted by UNEP - Access [here](#)**
- 2. 2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint (2020)**
United Nations Environment Programme - Access [here](#)
- 3. Global Health Observatory: regulations and controls on lead paint**
World Health Organization – Access [here](#)
- 4. International Lead Poisoning Week of action– Access [here](#)**

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Please contact the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Chemical Safety and Health team of the World Health Organization should you have any questions.

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