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World Health Organization

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | September 2021



Introduction

The [Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint](#) is pleased to present its September newsletter, highlighting the ninth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW or “Week of Action”), which will take place on 24–30 October 2021. This newsletter provides information about tools and materials available for the Week of Action, as well as examples of successes from the 2020 Week of Action. An updated website for the 2021 [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) is also available.



The theme for this year’s lead campaign is “Working together for a world without lead paint.” The campaign includes:

- A dedicated week of action [campaign website](#), where you can find customizable materials and more tools for planning an event
- [Registration web page](#) – have your event be counted and share your efforts with others!
- [List of registered events](#) – see the events taking place in your area and beyond and plan joint activities.

The newly released [Report on Activities during the Eighth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 25–31 October 2020](#) offers lessons learned and examples of success from the 2020 campaign.



Considering the COVID pandemic situation, we realize that awareness-raising activities may continue to be challenging this fall. The campaign includes materials



that can be used for virtual activities, email newsletters, social media and other media promotion. We encourage you to be creative and safe in your efforts to advance the work to eliminate lead paint. Below you will also find news about Upcoming Events, Progress Toward Laws, and Lead Paint in the News. We hope you will use these materials to plan effective programs to work towards eliminating lead paint in your country!

Before finishing this introduction, we would also like to share excellent lead-related news with you: As of now, [lead in gasoline is officially phased out](#) globally. This monumental accomplishment has been made possible under the [Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles](#) (PCFV) leadership. The Lead Paint Alliance takes inspiration from the recent success of PCFV global phase-out of leaded petrol as we strive for our goal of completing a global phase-out of lead in paint! In this effort, awareness-raising is key.

Wishing you all success in your campaign activities this October!

New Tool to Support Your Work

The Alliance is proud to offer this new tool on the topic of lead paint:

- The new [UNEP lead in paint laboratory database](#) lists laboratories from all UN regions capable of identifying and quantifying lead in paint samples. For each listed laboratory, the database offers publicly available information of interest, such as contact details, number of staff, instrumentation, analytical techniques, accreditation, etc. This database can help you find laboratories for testing in support of lead paint laws.

You can find more documents available on the [SAICM Knowledge Platform under lead paint](#).

Recent Event

This year's third Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) was held on 14 September, on the topic "Making the case: raising awareness about importance of lead paint laws."



A representative from the World Health Organization discussed the opportunity presented by International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, followed by case studies from Bangladesh, Georgia, Morocco, and Peru – countries that have successfully used awareness raising efforts to bring attention to the need for lead paint laws.

Participants discussed intended changes as a result of lead paint activities for ILPPW; how ILPPW activities have made a meaningful difference in raising awareness and motivating action in their country or region; and what is being planned for ILPPW this year. A digest summary of the discussion, with many interesting takeaways, is on its way and will be available soon. Visit the [LiP CoP page](#) on the SAICM Knowledge Management Platform for further information.

Upcoming Events



The [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) is fast approaching. If you plan an event for the Week of Action using the [campaign materials](#), don't forget to [register](#)! A social media toolkit will also soon be available on the campaign website. You can find what others are doing on the [List of Registered Events](#).

Within the framework of the GEF project on emerging SAICM issues for the region, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP ROLAC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will co-host a webinar in Spanish on the status and best regulatory practices on lead paint in Latin America, as part of the events during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2021. The webinar will take place on 26 October at 14:00 (GMT-5).

The event will highlight the latest developments and results on lead paint laws in the region under the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, and present the experiences of some countries in the region with recently adopted lead paint laws or that are in the process of drafting a lead paint law. Click [here](#) to register.

As part of the SAICM GEF project, the Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) aims to support all practitioners working to eliminate lead paint. All are invited to join the LiP CoP and participate in the next discussion, "Is there lead in my paint? All about testing and labs at 16:00 – 17:30 (GMT+2 on 8 December). [Learn more about the LiP CoP and join here.](#)

What can you do? Organize events for the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action!

- Plan your own event with customizable materials. As in previous years, the Lead Paint Alliance has developed a package of [customizable materials](#) to support partners planning ILPPW activities, including infographics, flyers, posters, graphics, web banners and video



for social media. Planning an event?

Please [register here](#). Interested in joint actions? Please visit the [List of Registered Events](#) to see what others are doing.

- Learn how to organize and use strategies for your own awareness-raising campaign. The [Guidance on advocacy and awareness-raising for organizing a targeted campaign on lead paint](#) is available for download from the WHO website. This provides information and tools to support awareness-raising and advocacy activities, including how to plan and organize a campaign, key messages and a catalogue of available materials (with links) that you can use for your advocacy and/or awareness-raising activities.

Success Stories From 2020

As you explore opportunities to raise awareness during this year's ILPPW, consider these examples of successful outreach from 2020. Reports by both [WHO](#) and [IPEN](#) showing the activities conducted might inspire ideas for your event during the upcoming week of action.



In Bangladesh, the NGO Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) organized a human chain in front of the National Press Club, followed by a march ending in front of Raju Vashkorjo at Dhaka University. Bangladesh has legally binding standards on decorative paints limiting lead content to 90 ppm. This event sought to raise awareness for implementing the law.

In Belarus, events on “Facilitating the global phase-out of lead paint” were coordinated by the Republican Unitary Enterprise “Scientific and Practical Centre for Hygiene,” including a round-table discussion on methods for determining the lead content of paint and varnish products, publication of online journal articles, presentations at a webinar and events at a kindergarten. Belarus has a lead paint law and is part of the Eurasian Economic Union effort to draft an updated regional Technical Regulation with a lower lead concentration limit.

Benin commemorated ILPPW 2020 with a workshop to inform and raise public awareness of the health and environmental impact of lead-containing paints, organized by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development, with financial support from WHO. Currently, Benin is in the process of finalizing a lead paint law.

The National Cleaner Production Centres of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru jointly organized three webinars during ILPPW 2020: regulatory measures on lead paints; alternative pigments to lead in paints; and lead in times of COVID-19. Presentations were delivered by a representative of the WHO Regional Office for the Americas and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the time, all countries were working to develop lead paint laws. Since then Colombia and Peru have passed laws.

In Mexico, the NGO Casa Cem held webinars to discuss the proposed “guideline for repainting lead-containing playground equipment.” The guideline seeks to provide the Mexican local authorities with all the technical specifications for the safe repainting of lead-coated play equipment. Mexico is in the process of updating its existing lead paint law.

In Morocco, the WHO Centre for Environmental Health Action, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office and the Ministry of Health, used the ILPPW campaign to increase industry support for phasing out addition of lead paint and to raise awareness about the importance of stopping the use of lead-based ingredients in paints. A videoconference was organized to increase awareness of a new national standard on the maximum content of lead in paints for household use. Since then, Morocco has passed a lead paint law.

In Nepal, the NGO Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), with the support of the government agencies, provincial governments and the WHO Country Office, undertook activities including a broadcast and a radio event, webinars and online programmes. Nepal has a lead paint law and this effort continued to raise awareness of the importance of addressing lead paint.

In Russia, the NGO Eco-Accord organized a webinar on “Lead in Paint Elimination: For People’s Health and Sustainable Development,” bringing together key Russian stakeholders to discuss the importance of eradicating lead in paint, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Technical Regulation on Paint Material Safety, and the perspectives of Russia and other EAEU member countries. Russia has a lead paint law and is part of the EAEU effort to draft an updated regional Technical Regulation with a lower lead concentration limit.

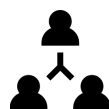


Progress Towards Laws

Momentum toward lead paint laws continues.
We are proud to share these updates.



Draft Laws Reviewed



Meetings and Workshops for Law Development

Congo Brazzaville shared a draft lead paint law with the Lead Paint Alliance for input and comment.

ECOWAS: In August 2021, the Secretariat of the Economic

Congo-Brazzaville: In April, Congo Brazzaville organized a multi-stakeholder workshop to raise awareness on the risk of lead paint and to reflect on the establishment of a legal text to regulate the conditions

Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) provided its draft regional standard on lead paint, developed by the Technical Harmonization Committee 3 on Chemical Products, for review and comment by the Alliance.

Guyana: The Lead Paint Alliance met with the Guyana Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board and discussed options for revising Guyana's existing lead paint law. Guyana plans to implement the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) lead paint standard currently under development. The Lead Paint Alliance legal review team reviewed the CARICOM standard and provided these comments to Guyana in August 2021.

Malaysia: In August 2021, the Lead Paint Alliance legal review team reviewed a draft Malaysian Standard for Undercoating Paint for Gloss Enamel, prepared by the Department of Standards (DoS) Malaysia, an agency within the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. The legal team comments were submitted to DoS in September 2021.

Laos: In July 2021, the Lead Paint Alliance legal review team provided comments on a draft of a Ministerial Decision and is now reviewing an additional draft.

South Africa: In August 2021, comments and inputs were shared by the Lead Paint Alliance on South Africa's updated guidelines for investigation and environmental control of human chemical poisoning cases. These guidelines will complement the upcoming revised national lead paint regulations by

of import, production and marketing of lead paint in Congo Brazzaville.

Côte d'Ivoire: In July 2021, Côte d'Ivoire organized a multi-stakeholder meeting to inform participants about the national situation on lead paint and raise awareness on the need to adopt a lead paint law.

Indonesia: In June 2021, the Ministry of Industry (Mol) finished the technical consultation to revise the current 600 ppm voluntary standard on lead in paint (SNI 8011:2014). The updated standard sets a 90 ppm voluntary limit on lead in all paints and was issued in August 2021.

Madagascar: In early September 2021, Madagascar organized a multi-stakeholder meeting to officially launch the lead paint project in the country and to review a draft national standard on lead paint.

Moldova: The National Agency for Public Health (ANSP) jointly with the WHO Country Office Moldova organized a [multistakeholder meeting of the Intersectoral Working Group](#). This first informative meeting took place on 3 August 2021 and the regulatory mechanism to limit of lead concentration in paints was discussed. It presented a way forward to develop the Sanitary Regulation on the approval of the maximum permissible lead paint limit and related documents. The Lead Paint Alliance legal review team is also reviewing a new draft regulation.

addressing risks and best practices related to existing paint on surfaces.

Suriname: The Lead Paint Alliance met with the Suriname Nationaal Instituut voor Milieu en Ontwikkeling in Suriname (NIMOS) in July 2021 to discuss options for regulating lead paint and the Lead Paint Alliance legal review team is in the process of reviewing a draft lead paint law.

Lead Paint in the News

These articles do not necessarily reflect the views or work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

- “Lead paints: Morocco finally aligns with international standards” (FR) ([article](#))
- “Paint Manufacturers Trained On Other Alternatives To Stop Lead Use” TV broadcast from Nigeria ([video](#))
- “Lead exposure in childhood can result in meaner, crankier adults, Texas study finds” ([Link](#))
- “Philippine policy banning lead paints recognized globally” ([Link](#))

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