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World Health Organization

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | June 2021



Introduction

Through the challenging times worldwide, the efforts of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint continue to build momentum in collaboration with countries establishing laws and paint companies working toward reformulation, with the goal of global phase-out of the manufacture, sale and import of paints containing lead. As we rebuild and recover from the pandemic, eliminating lead paint is an achievable goal that will prevent the exposure of many future generations of children to lead in paint.

To share progress toward this goal, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present its June newsletter. Specifically, the Alliance is proud to share recent efforts to support industry in paint reformulation:

- On April 21 and 22, NCPC Serbia organized a Validation Workshop on the Paint Reformulation Guidelines attended by organizations supporting pilot demonstrations of lead paint reformulation as part of the SAICM GEF Project lead in paint component. Lessons learned and best practices were exchanged among the participants, the paint reformulation technical guidelines were validated, and a dissemination plan for the guidelines was discussed. The presentations made by the NCPCs and IPEN's partner organizations are available [here](#).
- On June 9, the Lead in Paint Community of Practice held a discussion on the topic of "Reformulation is Entirely Possible" involving 87 participants representing industry, NGOs, government and academia. Participants exchanged information with each other, and shared the status of paint reformulation in their company, community or country; successes they were aware of; motivators for companies to reformulate their paint; and ways to overcome potential barriers to reformulation. More information about this

LiP CoP can be found [here](#).

Join the action! The annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will take place this year during the week of 24–30 October. All are invited to participate in this week of action by organizing programs and sharing information about the importance of eliminating lead paint. Additional materials will be posted this summer on the [campaign website](#).

We hope you will use these materials and information to develop effective programs to work towards eliminating lead paint in your community, company or country. Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer, without added lead!

Advisory Council Update

The Advisory Council members met on June 10 to discuss the 2019–2020 Activities Report and the 2021–2023 Action Plan, as well the Addendum to the Lead Paint Alliance Business Plan. The Council agreed to four priority actions for 2021–2023 to encourage and support priority activities by Alliance partners and other stakeholders that will help move toward the goal and objectives of the Alliance. The priority actions will focus of the following key areas:

1. Encourage and support governments in countries where legal limits are not currently in place to establish laws, and encourage all countries to enforce and strengthen national legal limits to restrict lead in paints, to achieve the eventual phase-out of the manufacture, import and sale of paints containing lead.
2. Encourage industry activities to voluntarily stop the manufacture, import and sale of lead paints.
3. Increase awareness of the need to prevent and address the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint, including but not limited to helping prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production, import and sale of lead paints.
4. Engage with and encourage Alliance partners to fully realize the goals and objectives of the Alliance.



Progress Towards Laws

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



Existing Laws Recognized



Draft Laws Reviewed

In May 2021, Ethiopia and the

Guinea: In February 2021, the Lead

Philippines were shortlisted for the [2021 Future Policy Award](#) for lead paint laws enacted in 2018 and 2013, respectively. With these awards, World Future Council highlights the world's best solutions to the most pressing global challenges and encourages policymakers around the world to adapt and implement them. See [here](#) for more details about the winning lead paint laws.



New Laws and Amendments

Republic of Georgia: A [Technical Regulation for regulating the content of lead in paints and varnishes](#) was approved by the Republic of Georgia in April 2021. In particular, a 90 ppm total lead concentration was established for paints intended for specified construction applications and is officially published in Georgian [here](#).

Ukraine: In April 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved a [Technical Regulation restricting the use of lead in paint and varnish materials and raw material components](#). The restriction is a 90 ppm limit on lead in ALL types of paint and varnish materials and raw material components. The announcement is available [here](#) in Ukrainian.

Peru: In March 2021, the Congress of Peru passed the Bill on the [Protection of human health and physical integrity of the people from Lead content in paints and other coatings](#) with broad approval. The 90 ppm limit on all paints was officially published in May [here](#).

Paint Alliance legal review team provided comments on Guinea's draft Decree on Heavy Metals (including lead in paint) which is currently under review by an interagency review committee led by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests.

Senegal: In May 2021, the Lead Paint Alliance legal review team provided comments and inputs on Senegal's draft standard on lead paint.

Liberia: At the end of May 2021, Liberia shared its draft law on lead paint with the Lead Paint Alliance legal review team for their review and comment.



Meetings and Workshops for Law Development

Jamaica: In April 2021, the Jamaican Paint and Surface Coatings Technical Committee met to discuss development of a lead paint standard. Alliance partners, US EPA, UNEP, ABA ROLI and the Ministry of Health of Israel, provided presentations on the global status of laws and experiences in implementing a lead paint standard in Israel. The Alliance offered assistance with the drafting of a Jamaican lead paint standard.

The Gambia: In April 2021, IPEN member organization, Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE), had a consultative meeting with the SAICM GEF project legal team, led by US EPA, to discuss next steps in The Gambia following the February multi-stakeholder webinar.

Togo: In March 2021, Togo organized a multi-stakeholder meeting, where the participants agreed on a roadmap

Jordan: the Jordanian Standards and Metrology Organisation has amended its [Technical Regulation TR 31:2020 Paints and varnishes – Water paints \(Emulsion\)](#); the standard now includes a 90 ppm limit lead concentration limit.

Morocco: In April 2021, the Minister of Industry, Trade and the Green and Digital Economy released a [decree](#) making the [standard NM 03.3.318 Paint and Varnishes: Lead limit in paint](#) mandatory, including a 90 ppm lead limit.

leading to the drafting of lead paint law.

Tunisia: In April 2021, a virtual multi-stakeholder meeting led by the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Industry was held to review the proposed draft law for lead in paint.

Zambia: In May 2021, Zambia organized a two-day multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss the roadmap for the development of a legislation on lead in paint. Alliance partners UNEP, WHO, U.S. EPA and IPEN attended parts of the meeting and answered legal questions in writing. A Technical Working Group co-led by the Ministry of Health and the Zambia Environmental Management Agency is tasked to draft the legislation.

What Can You Do?

Raise awareness: The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will take place this year during the week of 24-30 October 2021. You can join the action by organizing programs and sharing

information about the importance of eliminating lead paint. Looking for ideas and guidance for planning an event? WHO's [Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint](#) can help! Additional materials will be posted this summer on the [2021 campaign website](#).



Encourage or conduct lead paint reformulation: the UNEP technical guidelines on paint reformulation are currently being finalized and will soon be available on the UNEP website and the [SAICM Knowledge Management Platform](#). When available, we invite you to browse through the case studies, which highlight that compliance with a 90 ppm limit is possible when using ingredients with no intentionally added lead. We encourage you to share the word and to disseminate this technical document via your networks.

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