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World Health Organization

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | February 2020



Introduction

Lead paint is an important current and future source of childhood lead exposure because it is still allowed in most countries and is in widespread use. That is why the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is working to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture, sale and import of paints containing lead through the establishment of laws. Your partnership is helping to bring us closer to this goal!

In this newsletter, we are proud to share updates about global efforts to address lead paint; progress towards laws, including results of the new [2019 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#); and results of the [2019 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#). Below you will find news articles on lead paint and an update about our latest partners. You can also learn more about how you can continue to take action to make a difference.

Wishing you all a season without added lead!

Global Efforts to Address Lead Paint

The ongoing UNEP SAICM project, [“Chemicals without Concern: Toward Safer Products for our Environment and Health”](#), incorporates our current work on lead paint



and is currently working to establish lead paint standards and laws in 40 countries. A new knowledge management platform on many topics, including lead paint, is expected later in spring 2020. In addition, the [Fourth Meeting of the Intersessional Process \(IP4\)](#) for Considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020, 23 to 27 March 2020 in Bucharest, Romania, is expected to

continue the discussions on a possible post-2020 platform for chemicals and waste, including the emerging policy issue lead in paint.

Last year, [four regional](#) and [one sub-regional](#) lead paint workshops to promote lead paint laws engaged 98 participants from 57 countries in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia Pacific. The workshops increased momentum toward eliminating lead paint, and facilitated discussion about common barriers and opportunities in each region.

During the workshops, participants identified next steps including:

- Development of additional country approaches to developing lead paint laws;
- Engaging with decision makers in national governments; and
- Identifying NGO and industry champions and drafting lead paint laws.

[UNEP SAICM Lead in Paint component project advisors](#) are now beginning to work with individual countries to assist with the development of lead paint laws. Project advisors include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), and World Coatings Council. Since the workshops, 41 countries have developed country approaches. For any questions or further information, contact project advisors at leadpaintlaws@un.org.

The International Environmental Network for Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) focuses on achieving compliance with environmental law through effective compliance promotion and enforcement strategies, including administrative, civil, criminal, and judicial enforcement. In November 2019, INECE conducted two webinars discussing compliance issues related to lead paint ([INECE Compliance Conversations: Eliminating Lead Paint](#), 1 and 7 November 2019). These events were [covered by IISD](#).

Progress Towards Laws

Momentum toward lead paint laws

continues. We are proud to share these updates:

- This winter China published draft revised standards for various paints for public comment, proposing to lower the limit to 90 ppm total lead.
- The Eurasian Economic Union Technical Committee in charge of paint met in December to discuss a technical regulation to put in place a 90 ppm lead limit on all paint.
- Rwanda is developing a national regulation to implement the East African Community (EAC) regional standards for lead in paint that went into effect in 2019.



UNEP recently published their [2019 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#). As of 30 September 2019, 73 countries have legally binding controls to limit the production, import and sale of lead paints, which is 38% of all countries globally. Since September 2018, both Bangladesh and Israel established new laws to address lead in paint and Jordan revised its law to reduce the permitted lead concentration in paints to 90 ppm. The update is available in both English and Spanish.

2019 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) Results



**BAN LEAD
PAINT**

The Alliance organized its 7th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week from 20 to 26th October 2019. Through its multi-lingual resource pack, campaign videos, factual information and other materials, the Alliance aimed to support individuals, civil society organizations, industry and governments to work together to ban lead paint.

A total of 89 events were registered on the WHO website. The events were held by 81 organizations in 57 countries. NGOs organized the largest number of registered events, accounting for

66%, and government bodies organised 12% of events. Over [40 IPEN participating organizations from 36 countries participated in the Week](#) and organized various activities to raise awareness and promote actions, such as the adoption and enforcement of laws banning lead paint, to address the human health effects of lead exposure, especially for children.

A wide range of activities were carried out, including multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss developing laws on lead paint, media statements, public displays and dissemination of leaflets, publication of the results of market surveys of paint, events in schools and poster competitions. IPEN and NGO partners [released a new study](#) showing that the majority of 66 screened playgrounds in Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Thailand had equipment coated with paint containing total lead levels above 90 parts per million, and several items with levels above 100,000 ppm were detected.

Advisory Council

On November 6, 2019, the [Advisory Council](#) met to provide updates on ongoing work. With the conclusion of all UNEP SAICM Project regional workshops earlier in the year, topics of discussion included building global momentum to pass lead paint laws, progress in implementing Alliance goals, and updates on projects and activities.

Advisory Council members from the following countries gave updates:

COLOMBIA – The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development finished two guidance documents. One was for government authorities, proposing inter-institutional work areas aimed at reducing and eliminating lead in decorative paints. The second concerned paint manufacturing, including alternatives to lead and hazard communication on product labels. The Ministry of Health passed a resolution to establish technical regulations for lead in manufactured and imported toys and accessories.

KENYA – The East African Community (EAC) approved a regional standard to regulate lead in paint at 90 ppm (total lead). To promote this, awareness raising activities were carried out during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW).

MOLDOVA – After attending the UNEP SAICM project regional workshop in Kazakhstan, an inter-sectoral workgroup met and agreed to draft a lead paint law based on the [Model Law](#). Workgroup members have been establishing partnerships with the public and industry to raise awareness and build support for the law.

Additionally, the [World Coatings Council](#) noted that the organization has changed its name (formerly the International Paint and Printing Ink Council, or IPPIC). Advisory Council member [IPEN](#) has also changed its full name to the International Pollutants Elimination Network.

Lead Paint in the News

The following articles by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Knowledge Management Hub also track our recent global efforts to address lead paint:

- [African Regional Meeting on Eliminating Lead in Paint Recommends 90 ppm Limit](#) (1 October 2019)
- [Workshop Aims to Help SMEs in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia Phase Out Lead in Paint](#) (3 October 2019)
- [Israel, Bangladesh Adopt Legislation to Limit Lead in Paint](#) (8 Oct 2019)
- [Workshop Identifies Next Steps for LAC Region to Implement Lead Paint Laws](#) (8 October 2019)
- [Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop Showcases Industry, Government Efforts to Eliminate Lead in Paint](#) (10 October 2019)
- [UNEP Updates on Global Status of Lead in Paint Laws](#) (15 October 2019)

In addition, the following selected articles were shared on Twitter during ILPPW, as part of the #BanLeadPaint campaign:

India: [Paints contain lead above permissible limits: Study](#)

Indonesia: [Lead Exposure in Jakarta Children's Playground Raise Concern](#)

Malaysia: [Danger of lead lurks in playgrounds](#)

Mexico: [Tapatios children, exposed to lead](#)

Nigeria: [Industry speakers promote lead-free paints at Paint Manufacturers Association of Nigeria \(PMA\) 2019 Coatings show](#)

Russia: [Environmentalists urge to ban the use of lead in household paints in Russia](#)

Partners Corner

As of December 2019, 20 governments, 43 non-government organizations, 4 inter-governmental organizations, 6 academic organizations or institutions, and 21 industry or trade associations have joined as partners of the Lead Paint Alliance. A warm welcome and congratulations are extended to the new partners who have joined in the second half of 2019! New members include:

- Civil society: Caribbean Poison Information Network, Casa Cem, Eco Accord, Association for Community Development, Les Amis de la Terre Togo and Back to Basic;
- Governments: Burkina Faso, Colombia, Madagascar and Viet Nam;
- Business and industry: Powder Coating Research Group.

What Can You Do? Take Action!

The Alliance fact sheet, [Suggested Steps for Establishing a Lead Paint Law](#), outlines steps which have been helpful in countries that have adopted laws. To help spur action to eliminate lead paint, this fact sheet provides steps such as stakeholder engagement to gain support for a lead paint law; development and drafting of the law; public review of the law; and awareness raising to promote development or implementation of the law.

Governments, industry, civil society organizations and all stakeholders are encouraged to take the following actions:

- Review the “Suggested Steps” fact sheet;
- Identify needed next steps toward a law in your country; and
- Engage the stakeholders needed to take that step.



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