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World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | June 2023



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Alliance) is pleased to present its June newsletter. The Alliance is working to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture, sale and import of paints containing lead through the establishment of laws. As of 31 March 2023, 93 countries – comprising 48% of all countries – have legally binding controls to limit the production, import and sale of lead paints. For a map and database, you can visit WHO's Global Health Observatory webpage on [legally-binding controls on lead paint](#).

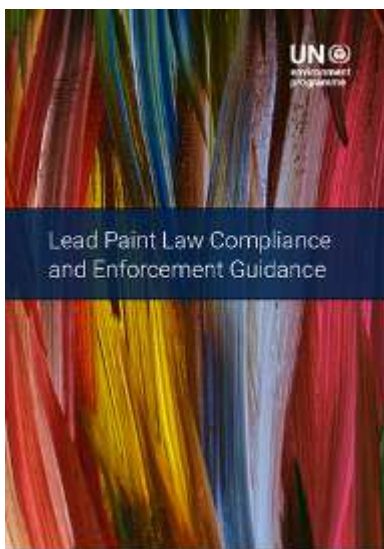
After enacting legally binding controls for lead paint, compliance and enforcement are critical to the effective implementation of laws. The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP's) newly released [Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance](#) provides countries with guidance for the development and implementation of compliance and enforcement strategies for lead paint laws. It will be available in all UN languages shortly on the [Alliance website](#).

More broadly, addressing lead pollution and exposure in developing countries was reaffirmed in 2023 [G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers Communiqué](#), in which Ministers committed to contributing to addressing pollution in developing countries by supporting capacity building for sound management of chemicals and waste. An experts meeting, co-hosted by Germany, the United States and the European Union, will be held later this year to further elaborate concrete actions to reduce lead pollution and exposure, in addition to identifying ways to strengthen international cooperation on lead with existing international initiatives and instruments.

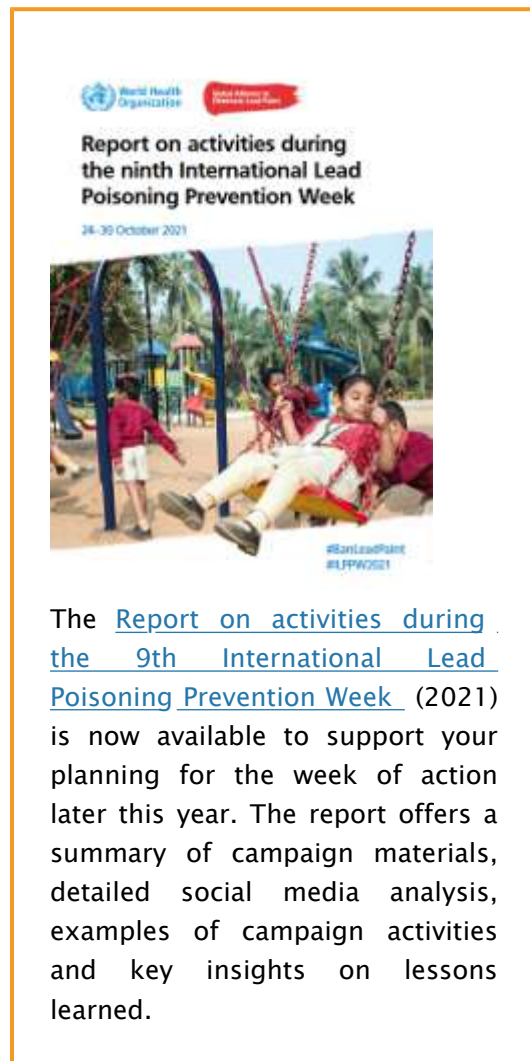
To galvanize action, the Alliance is actively planning for the 11th [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) (ILPPW) to be held 22–28 October 2023. This year’s week of action will focus on children’s environmental health in relation to lead exposure. The dedicated campaign website and registration will be available shortly.

We are pleased to share additional updates below about our recent progress and activities, as well as opportunities for governments, industry, and civil society to join us in our efforts.

New Tools



In collaboration with a group of key Alliance partners, UNEP has developed a [Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance](#), which outlines actions governments can take in fostering compliance. It also details actions companies can take to document compliance, in order to support governments in establishing and implementing lead paint laws. Key elements of compliance and enforcement strategies for government officials and examples from countries that have enacted lead paint laws are included. The Guidance also provides examples of action which paint manufacturers and importers can take to demonstrate compliance.



The [Report on activities during the 9th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) (2021) is now available to support your planning for the week of action later this year. The report offers a summary of campaign materials, detailed social media analysis, examples of campaign activities and key insights on lessons learned.

You can find more related tools and documents on the [Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management \(SAICM\) Knowledge Platform under lead paint](#).



Coming Soon

The Report on Activities during the Tenth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 23–29 October 2022, will offer lessons learned and examples of success from the 2022 campaign, based on feedback received from event organizers, with specific analysis of web and social media activities.



Recent Events

The G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy and the Environment met on 15–16 April 2023 in Sapporo, Japan and reaffirmed commitment to addressing lead pollution and exposure. The communiqué expresses their commitment to contributing to addressing pollution in developing countries by supporting capacity building for sound management of chemicals and waste through multilateral financial mechanisms, and regional and bilateral technical assistance.

A roundtable in New Delhi, India was convened by the Center for Global Development (CGD) on 25 April 2023 to emphasize opportunities for the government of India to show leadership in addressing lead pollution. The roundtable featured representatives from Pahle India Foundation, Pure Earth, the Asian Development Bank, UNICEF and the United States.

CGD's multistakeholder Working Group on Understanding and Mitigating the Global Burden of Lead Poisoning met on 13–14 June 2023 in Washington, DC as part of its plan to produce a global framework and action agenda to progressively reduce the global burden of lead poisoning.

Discussion took place between the members of the Working Group, which includes policymakers, government leaders, aid agencies and funders, NGOs and subject matter experts on lead, health and education, to advise CGD on how to promote action through a variety of communications products and policy briefs.



Upcoming Events

On 15 June 2023, CGD will hold a US event in Washington, DC, entitled [Get the Lead Out! A Day Connecting Local and Global Action for a World Free of Lead Poisoning](#). The public event will include expert panels and interactive learning stations to foster dialogue and information exchange about successes to date and possible action for the future to help countries around the world address this issue.



UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO), as Secretariat to the Alliance, have organized an Advisory Council meeting to be held virtually on 22 June 2023. The meeting will be chaired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The expected outcome of the meeting is to validate the findings of the draft progress report prepared for submission to the Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) and to initiate discussion of the future activities of the Alliance. The invitation is extended to all partners of the Alliance to encourage broad input on the progress report and future directions.



On 12 July 2023, join the Alliance for the next LipCop, [Preparing for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#). The Lip CoP is an opportunity to participate in shared learning and dialogue around issues related to the elimination of lead paint. Each session is an online discussion facilitated by experts. More details on upcoming sessions will be forthcoming.



ICCM5 will be held 25–29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany to determine the course of action forward for international chemicals and waste management. As president of the conference, Germany will facilitate negotiation of the future Beyond 2020 global chemical and waste framework contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Lead paint is one of the emerging policy issues that was identified by SAICM in 2009.



Progress Towards Laws

New Laws in 2023

KUWAIT

The country status was updated in WHO's [Global Health Observatory](#) to reflect that lead paint laws have been in place since 2018. The standard limits the lead concentration in certain paints and bases to 600 ppm (the Kuwait standard defines "base" as a semi-finished material that provides color to the paint). The standard applies to the following paints: emulsion paint for interior and exterior use, matte alkyd paint for interior use, gloss alkyd paint for interior and exterior uses and for concrete, steel, and wood surfaces, and semi-glossy alkyd paint for general uses. .

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Ministry of Environment reported the enactment of legally binding controls on production, import, export, sale, and use of lead paints has been reported by ("MOE Public Notice No. 2022-248 "Designation of Restricted Substances and Prohibited Substances"). Under the Environmental Health Act, all lead compounds are limited and a lead content limit of 0.009% (90 ppm by weight) applies to paint and coating materials used in indoor and outdoor facilities for children's activity zones. In addition, Korea has the "Act on Registration and Evaluation of Chemical Substances" (K-REACH), which restricts the use of lead containing more than 0.009% (90 ppm by weight) in paint. A limit to lead compounds is currently being considered for paints and other mixtures under K-REACH.

Additional New Progress

AZERBAIJAN

The Medical Service Department of the State Customs Committee shared that draft legislation is waiting on political validation and endorsement of the final draft lead

paint law.

BENIN

A final draft lead paint law is being developed. Legislation is expected to be finalized and adopted later this year. The Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development, LEEP is conducting a paint study to assess the status of lead levels in paint in the country.

BOLIVIA

The National Environmental Health Management Program is drafting a law, with assistance from LEEP. Follow-up engagement is planned with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Productive Development.

BURUNDI

The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock has expressed interest in conducting a paint study in collaboration with LEEP.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The Directorate of Hygiene and Healthy Environment reported that lead paint regulatory text has been drawn up in the form of a draft decree. In the decree, all aspects concerning the manufacture, import and export of paints are included. The draft decree has been technically validated but government institution validation is needed prior to its enactment.

ECOWAS

The lead paint regulation that makes a regional lead paint standard mandatory was validated by the Ministers of Industry and Trade and has been endorsed by the ECOWAS Parliament. Following adoption by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in July 2023, the regulation and standard will be mandatory for all ECOWAS Member States.

ECUADOR

Technical support to draft a lead paint law has been requested from UNEP.

HONDURAS

With the support of UNEP, WHO and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), a legal draft of a lead paint law has been developed. The Ministry of the Environment has paused work on the draft for the time being.

GUINEA

A draft regulation is currently being prepared for lead in paint. Legislation is expected to be finalized by 2024.

GHANA

A lead paint standard has been set and regulations drafted. A paint study is currently being conducted by the Ghana EPA, the Ghana Standards Authority, LEEP and the Environment Youth Action Network. .

MALAYSIA

The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs approved a voluntary standard for lead in architectural coatings, but no timeline exists for making it mandatory.

UZBEKISTAN

The Ministry of Health approved guidelines on hygienic methods for ensuring the safety of paints and varnishes.

IPEN In-country paint studies

The International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) is conducting in-country paint studies to monitor paint manufacturers' compliance to existing regulation in **CAMEROON, COLOMBIA, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, TANZANIA** and **THAILAND**.

Workshops

MADAGASCAR

A technical committee meeting to review a proposed decree and a workshop for industry stakeholders, supported by LEEP, are both planned for June 2023.

PAKISTAN

The Pakistan Standard & Quality Control Authority and LEEP organized a lead paint reformulation workshop for manufacturers in May 2023.

ZIMBABWE

The Environmental Management Agency and LEEP organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on lead in paint in Zimbabwe in early June 2023.

What Can You Do?

Join us 22–28 October 2023 for ILPPW! 2023 marks 11 years of action to eliminate lead paint.

ILPPW takes place every year during the last week of October. The aim of the Week of Action is to raise awareness about health effects of lead exposure; highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, particularly in children; and urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at the country level.

Governments, civil society organizations, industry, health partners and others are encouraged to organize campaigns during ILPPW. You can support the Alliance by:

- a. 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.

- b. Encourage industry activities to voluntarily stop the manufacture, import and sale of lead paints.
- c. Increase awareness of the need to prevent and address the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint, including but not limited to helping to prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production, import and sale of lead paints.
- d. Engage with and encourage Alliance partners to fully realize the goals and objectives of the Alliance.

Partners Corner

As of June 2023, 20 governments, 52 non-government organizations, 5 inter-governmental organizations, 7 academic organizations or institutions, 22 industry or trade associations have joined as partners of the Lead Paint Alliance.

A warm welcome and congratulations are extended to our newest partner, [ASTM International](#).



In the News: Lead Paint and Other Sources of Lead Exposure

Regional action to address lead paint

AFRICA

ECOWAS to hold Industry Ministers and Experts' Meeting to validate draft Regional Standards, Technical Guidelines on Lead Paint, Revised ECOSHAM Document and Draft Policy Guidelines for the Automotive Industry

<https://ecowas.int/ecowas-to-hold-industry-ministers-and-experts-meeting-to-validate-draft-regional-standards-technical-guidelines-on-lead-paint-revised-ecosham-document-and-draft-policy-guidelines-for-the-au/>

ECOWAS CEDEAO Press Release, 24 March 2023

ASIA

'Lead use in paints to be reduced for human safety' (Pakistan)

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1071366-lead-use-in-paints-to-be-reduced-for-human-safety>

The News International, 18 May 2023

'Unrelenting sale' of lead-based paint products deplored (Philippines)

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/05/08/news/national/unrelenting-sale-of-lead-based-paint-products-deplored/1890422>

The Manila Times, 8 May 2023

Local Government Units (LGUs) must use lead-safe paints, says Department of Interior and Local Government (Philippines)

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1760826/dilg-reiterates-mandatory-use-of-lead-safe-paints-in-lgus>

Inquirer.net, 25 April 2023

[Video] Lead Exposure Affects 47m Children in Pakistan (Pakistan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRlxqi3uGhI>

Dawn News, 17 February 2023

40 percent of oil-based paints contain dangerous lead levels, study reveals (Pakistan)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1737223>

Dawn, 15 February 2023

NORTH AMERICA

[Video] New York City Council considering new lead paint laws (USA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LOSLAS1gbQ>

CBS News New York, 17 May 2023

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

A World Free of Lead Poisoning – Roundtable Highlights Opportunities for India's G20 Presidency

<https://www.pureearth.org/india-roundtable-highlights-g20/>

Pure Earth, 2 May 2023

Lead poisoning: What parents should know and do

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/lead-poisoning-what-parents-should-know-and-do-202305012931>

Harvard Health Publishing, Harvard Medical School, 1 May 2023

It's Time for the G7 to End Lead Poisoning – Worldwide and Forever

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/now-is-the-time-for-the-g7-to-end-lead-poisoning-worldwide-and-forever/>

Health Policy Watch, 28 April 2023

High-level roundtable meeting in Delhi deliberates on lead poisoning in children

<https://theprint.in/india/high-level-roundtable-meet-in-delhi-deliberates-on-lead-poisoning-in-children/1539263/>

The Print, 26 April 2023

Toxic churn: The legacy of long-gone industry pollutes U.S. cities

<https://publicintegrity.org/environment/ghosts-of-polluters-past/toxic-churn-legacy-industry-pollutes-cities/>

The Center for Public Integrity, 22 March 2023

The Ground Beneath Their Feet

<https://grist.org/solutions/soil-lead-contamination-poison-children/>

Grist, 22 March 2023

Americans' Old Car Batteries are Making Mexican Workers Sick

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/20/world/americas/car-batteries-lead-mexico.html>

The New York Times, 20 March 2023

G7 Workshop Emphasizes Cooperation to Reduce Lead Exposure in LMICS

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/g7-workshop-emphasizes-cooperation-to-reduce-lead-exposure-in-lmics/>

IISD, 8 March 2023

'My kids are being poisoned': How aviators escaped America's war on lead

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/02/20/aviation-lead-fuel-00081641>

Politico, 20 February 2023

Element of mystery: Lead poisoning is a huge public health concern for India; here's why

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/health/element-of-mystery-lead-poisoning-is-a-huge-public-health-concern-for-india-here-s-why-87098>

DownToEarth, 16 February 2023

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