



World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | February 2024



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present its February 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 16 January 2024, 94 countries – comprising 48% of all countries – have legally binding controls to limit the production, import, sale and use of lead paints. For a map and database, you can visit WHO's Global Health Observatory webpage on [legally binding controls on lead paint](#).

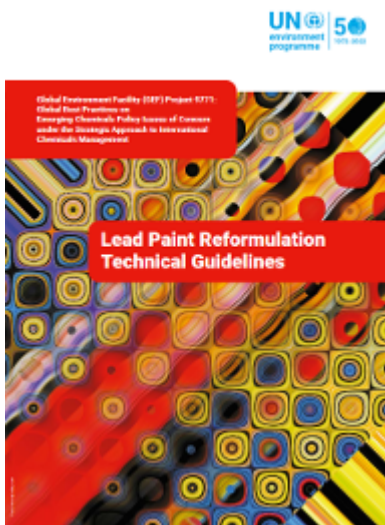
The Alliance continues to make significant progress toward helping countries develop and implement legally binding controls on lead paint. For example, the UNEP project "[Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM](#)", which was financed by GEF and executed by the SAICM Secretariat, recently helped eleven additional small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to complete pilots on lead paint reformulation, bringing the total number SMEs assisted by the project to thirty-six.

In addition, the profile of the work on lead paint was recently raised in January 2024 when the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power was part of a discussion panel on "[lead-free future](#)" and made a call for a global drive to support low- and middle-income countries in rolling out and enforcing binding regulations to curtail lead in consumer goods like paint, spices, and cosmetics. As part of her remarks, she announced that USAID has joined the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. The Alliance welcomes USAID as the first bilateral development agency to join the Alliance!

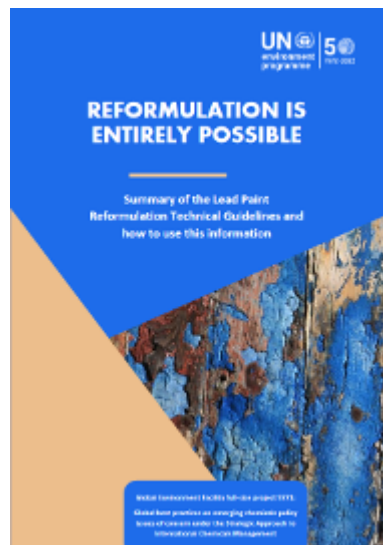
New/Existing Tools



[ECHA Report](#) on exports and imports in 2022 of chemicals listed in Annex I to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation



UNEP and the National Cleaner Production Centre from Serbia (NCPC Serbia) jointly developed [Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines](#) to address both logistical and economic capacity constraints and technical barriers to the substitution of lead compounds in paint, focusing on the needs of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The guidelines incorporate the SMEs' experiences and feedback received from stakeholders and are available in all UN languages.



A summary of the technical guidelines entitled [Reformulation is Entirely Possible: Summary of the Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines and How to Use this Information](#), is also available in all UN languages. The summary highlights key messages from the guidelines that are targeted at policymakers, industry, and civil society organisations. The guidelines and the summary provide a helpful starting point for all stakeholders wishing to learn more about best practices in lead paint reformulation.



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance](#) is available in English, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish (Chinese to follow soon). More and more countries are adopting lead paint laws and enforcement of these laws is critical to their implementation. This guidance provides information on the development and implementation of compliance and enforcement strategies. It also contains examples from countries that have enacted lead paint laws and discusses actions that paint manufacturers and importers can take to demonstrate compliance.



The [Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Eliminate Lead Paint](#) was developed by partners of the Lead Paint Alliance. This toolkit was designed to provide information to government officials who are interested in establishing legal limits for lead in paints in their countries. For example, it contains information about the [Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint](#). The Model Law provides guidance to countries drafting new laws to establish legal limits on lead content in paints, as a measure to protect human health and the environment.



Success Stories from 11th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, “End Childhood Lead Poisoning,” 23–27 Oct. 2023

MALAWI LEEP and the Malawi Bureau of Standards conducted a new study to assess recent changes in lead paint levels in Malawi. Taking into account estimated market share data, the results suggest that the market share of brands selling lead paint for home use has reduced from approximately 67% in 2021 to 24% in 2023.

RWANDA The NGO ARECO organized a webinar to raise awareness about lead poisoning, which was attended by multiple government and other stakeholders.

COTE D'IVOIRE The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, CASE and LEEP presented at a workshop on lead paint. Recent testing showed lead paint is readily available on the market, and it was strongly recommended that the draft decrees be adopted as soon as possible.

CAMEROON The Centre de Recherche et de l'Education Pour le Développement (CREPD) and IPEN shared the [findings](#) of their new lead paint study through the national press, including online media. Despite a regulation adopted in 2017, more than 30 percent of solvent-based paints tested still contained high levels of lead, including an imported spray paint from UAE with 90,000 ppm lead content. Through various social media networks, CREPD called for the full enforcement of the national regulation on lead in paint. They also encouraged countries to restrict imports of lead chromates and notify the Rotterdam Convention so that lead chromates can be considered as chemicals potentially subject to Prior Informed Consent Procedures.

COLOMBIA Asociación Colnodo and IPEN organized a multi-stakeholder meeting to release a [report](#) which showed that despite a lead paint legislation from 2020, more than 50 percent of decorative household paints tested still contained high levels of lead, including some as high as 160,000 ppm. In addition, the Red de Desarrollo Sostenible (RDS) with assistance from IPEN shared the [results](#) of X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) screening on the lead content of paints used to decorate children's play equipment in seven public parks around Bogotá City. The group found that 70 percent of 99 samples taken from play equipment contained lead levels above 90 ppm. The group also shared the report with local authorities and recommended development and enforcement of lead paint technical regulations to ensure lead levels are below 90 ppm in paints.

INDONESIA The Nexus3 Foundation together with IPEN launched a new [report](#) documenting the blood lead levels of some paint factory workers. Results showed that one-third of workers who participated in the study had elevated blood lead levels above 5 mg/L. Throughout the week, Nexus3 raised awareness on various social media platforms, including a live discussion on Instagram about ILPPW 2023.

PHILIPPINES The EcoWaste Coalition publicized a new [report](#) co-published with IPEN which showed that more than 40 percent of solvent-based decorative and industrial paints still contained lead despite the adoption of a law 10 years ago. The highest lead concentration of 98,000 ppm was detected in a locally manufactured automotive paint. The group used the test results to advocate for improved compliance monitoring and enforcement of the country's regulation banning lead in the manufacture of paints and in consumer products, such as toys. The group further used the occasion to campaign for addressing lead chromates. Earlier in the year, EcoWaste Coalition and IPEN worked with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) on an advisory asking all local government units to "participate in the annual celebration of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week every last week of October each year." This led to dozens of communities at all levels and youth organizations across the country to participate in the ILPPW and raise public awareness on the need to protect children and other vulnerable populations against lead exposure.



Recent Events

On 25–26 October 2023, Bloomberg Philanthropies conducted a Lead Poisoning Expert Convening in New York City. Bloomberg’s objectives of the meeting were to understand the global sources of lead poisoning and to learn about experiences addressing lead poisoning at the global, country, and local levels. They also sought to identify programmatic and policy options and communications needs from public health, environmental, and social sectors to address lead poisoning.

UNEP together with WHO and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat organized a webinar on "Worldwide Voices: Perspectives in Tackling Lead" on 30 October 2023 to unpack the significance of existent global actions, discuss the challenges that low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face in drafting and implementing the necessary laws to safeguard their communities and curb the damage from lead exposure. It also provided a knowledge-sharing opportunity for successful endeavors to be scaled up and emulated in various parts of the world.

The second Lead in Paint Community of Practice session of 2023 was held on 16 November 2023 on the topic of “Industry Engagement and Reformulation.” The discussion brought together multi-sectoral experiences of lead paint reformulation and highlighted industry’s critical role in the move towards a global paint industry without added lead. A summary of the discussion is available in English and in French.

On 21 November 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the European Union and the German Environment ministry held a G7 Expert Meeting on Concrete Actions to Address Lead Pollution and Exposure in Low- and Middle-Income Countries hosted by the World Bank in Washington, D.C. In the 2023 Communiqué, G7 ministers once again signaled a strong commitment to reduce lead pollution and exposure in LMICs and called for this second experts meeting in follow up to a G7 workshop held in 2022. A visioning document guided the discussions and is the outcome of the expert meeting. It lays out potential opportunities for future concrete action on lead source and exposure reduction activities, including on lead paint, by G7 Members and others in LMICs.

PROGRESS TOWARD LAWS

The Lead Paint Alliance Legal Team gave presentations on the Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint at workshops in Uzbekistan and in Angola and provided guidance to the paint industry in West Asia.

In Angola, the Ministry of Environment and Instituto Nacional de Gestão Ambiental (INGA) co-hosted a workshop in Luanda, supported by the WHO, where the results of a paint study conducted by INGA, EcoAngola and LEEP were shared. The Minister of Environment declared that the study would inform the introduction of regulation.

In Benin, the government is finalizing a lead paint decree and planning a workshop to raise awareness of the new decree among stakeholders and consumers.

In The Philippines, in late 2023, the Minister of Interior re-released a memorandum calling for local ordinances to ban lead-based paint, which has since generated positive feedback and compliance from local governments and various paint manufacturers.

In Sierra Leone, in November 2023, two workshops were hosted by the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency and LEEP to discuss the draft lead paint regulation and build consensus for adoption.

In Turkey, in December 2023, the WHO was informed that Turkey's legally binding controls on lead paint were published in the Official Gazette.

In Uzbekistan, the Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Wellbeing and LEEP hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop in January 2024 to discuss lead paint regulation.

Partner Corner

The Alliance welcomes its newest partner the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

For more information on current partners or on how to become a partner, visit the [Lead Paint Alliance website](#).



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

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

Regional action to address lead paint

NORTH AMERICA

City of Las Vegas offering free lead paint remediation for older homes (USA)

KTNV Las Vegas, 8 January 2024

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/city-of-las-vegas-offering-free-lead-paint-remediation-for-older-homes>

Biden–Harris Administration Announces New Action to Protect Communities from Lead Exposure (USA)

The White House, 30 November 2023

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/30/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-action-to-protect-communities-from-lead-exposure/>

AFRICA

Toxic lead levels found in local paints (Zimbabwe)

Sunday Mail, January 2024

<https://www.sundaymail.co.zw/toxic-lead-levels-found-in-local-paint-brands/amp>

Lead paint levels on the decline (Malawi)

The Nation, 24 October 2023

<https://mwnation.com/lead-paint-levels-on-the-decline-study/>

Amid lead–free paint campaign, SON to roll out new requirements (Nigeria)

EnviroNews Nigeria, 27 October 2023

<https://www.environewsigeria.com/amid-lead-free-paint-campaign-son-to-roll-out-new-requirements/>

AED: Raise awareness of the dangers of lead paint on the environment and health (Congo–Brazzaville)

L'Horizon Africain, 4 November 2023

<https://www.lhorizonafricain.com/a-e-d-association-action-sur-lenvironnement-et-le-developpement-sensibiliser-aux-dangers-de-la-peinture-au-plomb-sur-lenvironnement-et-la-sante/>

The government needs to control the level of lead in paint (Tanzania)

TVE, 26 October 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8davT9nVY4>

CENTRAL ASIA

Uzbekistan and Britain begin to fight against lead exposure (Uzbekistan)

Kun.Uz, 11 January 2024

<https://kun.uz/36644952>

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

EcoWaste Coalition discovers 5 more highly leaded China–made paints sold online (Philippines)

Pressenza, 9 February 2024

<https://www.pressenza.com/2024/02/ecowaste-coalition-discovers-5-more-highly-leaded->

[china-made-paints-sold-online/](#) _

The Philippines' EcoWaste Coalition cites 10th year of groundbreaking Chemical Control Order banning toxic lead in paints (Philippines)

Polymers Paint Colour Journal/Asia Pacific Coatings Journal, 4 January 2024

<https://www.polymerspaintcolourjournal.com/the-philippines-ecowaste-coalition-cites-10th-year-of-groundbreaking-chemical-control-order-banning-toxic-lead-in-paints/> _

Research: 70% of enamel paint in Indonesia contains lead (Indonesia)

TrenAsia, 31 October 2023

<https://www.trenasia.com/riset-70-persen-cat-enamel-di-indonesia-mengandung-timbal> _

90% of paint samples tested contain lead above permissible limits in India: Study (India)

The Hindu, 26 October 2023

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/90-of-paint-samples-tested-contain-lead-above-permissible-limits-in-india-study/article67463217.ece> _

CAP: Government should promulgate a law to eliminate lead in paint to avoid lead poisoning among children (Malaysia)

Oriental Daily, 24 October 2023

<https://www.orientaldaily.com.my/news/north/2023/10/24/605945> _

EPA seeks views on reducing lead levels allowed in paints (New Zealand)

Polymers Paint Colour Journal, 27 October 2023

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/latest-news/epa-seeks-views-on-reducing-lead-levels-allowed-in-paints> _

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning in Georgia

UNICEF, December 2023

<https://www.unicef.org/documents/ending-childhood-lead-poisoning-georgia> _

Other sources of lead

Reduced blood lead levels linked to lower blood pressure in American Indians

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), 11 January 2024

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1030727> _

Investigation of Elevated Lead Levels: Cinnamon Applesauce Pouches

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 9 January 2024

<https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/investigation-elevated-lead-levels-cinnamon-applesauce-pouches-november-2023> _

Lead chromate was being used to brighten turmeric - it damaged adult health and child IQ, costing trillions

The Times of India, 6 January 2024

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/lead-chromate-was-being-used-to-brighten-turmeric-it-damaged-adult-health-and-child-iq-costing-trillions/articleshow/106582709.cms> _



What Can You Do?

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

1. Encouraging and supporting 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. Encouraging industry activities to voluntarily stop the manufacture, import and sale of lead paints.
3. Increasing 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.
4. Engaging with and encourage Alliance partners to fully realize the goals and objectives of the Alliance.

You can also join the conversation using the hashtags [#BanLeadPaint](#) [#LeadPoisoning](#)

Copyright © 2024 Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, All rights reserved.

Not yet subscribed to the Lead Paint Alliance newsletter? [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Please send comments or questions to
lead-cadmium.chemicals@unep.org and/or noleadinpaint@who.int

Read more about the Lead Paint Alliance on www.unep.org/noleadinpaint

Want to change how you receive these emails?
[Update your preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe from this list](#)

Our postal address is:
Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
International Environment House
(MIE 1) Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

[Add us to your address book](#)

