Overview of Approaches to Regulating Lead in Paint

SAICM GEF Lead Paint Project
Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia
March 19, 2019

Ellie McCann
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
US Environmental Protection Agency
Outline

- The need for effective laws on lead in paints
- Brief global history of lead paint laws
- Objectives for new laws on lead in paint
- Two main approaches to restricting lead in paint
- Status of laws in Central/Eastern Europe and Central Asia
The Need for Effective Laws on Lead in Paints

- Effective lead paint laws are needed to:
  - Protect public health
  - Create incentives for paint producers in the national market to stop using lead compounds by reformulating their paints
  - Create incentives for paint ingredient suppliers to produce more and better non-lead ingredients
Brief Global History of Lead Paint Laws

- **Early 1900s**: The hazard of lead paint was recognized by doctors a long time ago.

- **1920s-30s**: Initial actions by countries to ban the use of lead carbonates and sulfates in paints through ILO Convention on White Lead. (Effective in 1923, ratified by 63 countries)

- **1970s-90s**: Countries began to look again at problem of lead in paint, and to introduce more comprehensive laws.
Brief Global History of Lead Paint Laws

2000-2019: Lead paint laws have become more restrictive as the health hazards of lead have become better understood.

- United States reduced lead limit from 600 to 90 ppm in 2008
- Brazil, Argentina and South Africa are now revising their laws to reduce lead limit from 600 to 90 ppm.
- East African Community is finalizing regional paint standards with lead limit of 90 ppm.
- New laws with 90 ppm lead limit have recently been adopted in countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
Objectives for New Laws on Lead in Paint

- Major objectives for new lead paint laws should be to:
  - Prevent the manufacture, sale, use and import of lead paint
  - Develop effective means of compliance and enforcement
  - Integrate new lead paint law into a country’s existing legal framework
  - Establish clear institutional responsibilities for management and enforcement of a lead paint law
Two Main Approaches to Restricting Lead in Paint

1. **Total Lead Limit:**
   - 34 countries have laws with a regulatory limit on total lead concentration
   - Countries may have different limits for different paint applications (household vs industrial)

2. **Chemical-Specific Lead Limits**
   - 31 countries have adopted the EU REACH regulation on lead compounds in paints

Both approaches have been effective in limiting the lead content in paint
Status of Laws in Central/Eastern Europe & Central Asia

- **Total Lead Limit**
  - 90 ppm: Israel (final law); Ukraine (draft law)

- **Chemical-Specific Lead Limits (EU REACH)**
  - Moldova (final law); Bosnia and Herzegovina (draft law)
  - Georgia?

- **Eurasian Economic Union** (Regulation similar to EU REACH?)
  - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia

- **Unknown Status:**
  - Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
More details will be provided in next presentations

- Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint
- European Union: EU REACH regulations
- Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) regulations