



Lead in Paint

J Stober, IFCS and J Shoaff, US EPA

Proponents

Toxics Link

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
Government of the United States of America

Technical briefings on emerging policy issues

Sunday 10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management
11-15 May 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

Lead in Paint

World Summit on Sustainable Development
(WSSD, 2002)

Plan of Implementation

“Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.” (para 57)

Lead in Paint

SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria

Magnitude of problem

Lead exposure: well-known source of injury to human health

No level of exposure considered safe

Children:

- sensory, motor, cognitive and behavioral impacts, including learning disabilities
- attention deficits
- disorders in a child's coordination, visual, spatial and language skills
- anemia

Adults:

- renal and cardiovascular effects, including increased blood pressure and incidence of hypertension

Exposure to lead from paint: common pathways

Children:

- dust in/from homes, schools, public, commercial buildings & structures (e.g. bridges)
- normal wear, dust film & paint chips, renovation activities
- exterior paint flakes off or leaches into soil and dust

Workers:

- during manufacture & processing of lead paint
- use of lead paint
- renovation activities
- during abatement activities

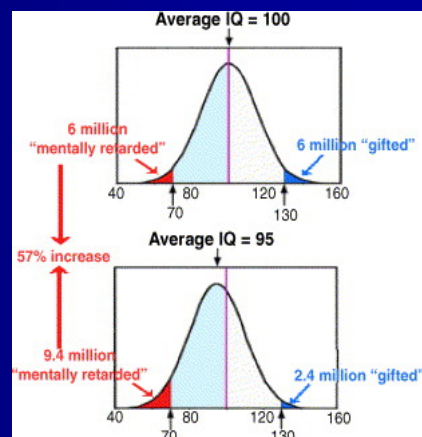
Lead in Paint

SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria

Relevance of issue

- Children:
 - 40% blood lead levels > 5 µg/dl
 - 97 % of the affected children live in developing regions
- Societal impacts: *low level lead poisoning*
 - Substantial decline in societal intellectual resources
 - Significant resources needed to address increase in population with IQ decrements

Economic losses lead exposure in children in US: \$43.4 billion per year (2002)
Landrigan, et al 2002



Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Relevance of issue



- **Lead in paint is one of the largest sources of lead exposure, after lead in gasoline**
 - Lead paint remains source of exposure/poisoning many years after applied
 - Developed world: a significant percentage of homes still contain lead paint on some surfaces
 - Developing world: paints with lead are still commonly available

Shifting to lead-free alternatives & remaining competitive... studies suggest that price should not be a deterrent for paint companies

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Level of knowledge



- **Lead exposure a well known source of injury to human health**
 - particularly to children & workers in lead industries
- **Extent to which lead in paint understood to be a source of lead poisoning varies**
- **Legacy uses of lead paint still provide significant sources of lead exposure in developed world**

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Cross-cutting Nature

Lead paint effects a broad range of groups

- children & adults:
 - homes
 - schools and day care centres
 - public & commercial buildings and structures
- workers:
 - manufacturing, processing and application
 - activities that disturb lead paint (e.g. renovations)



WHO



EHP

Environment:

- releases during manufacturing, processing, use & disposal
- persist/remain as a potential source of exposure

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Extent address by other bodies

**An issue that has significant
adverse effects on human beings and
has not yet been sufficiently addressed**

*** * ***

**no known international organizations
have ongoing or planned
targeted work programmes
on lead paint**

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions

Guidance for a working definition of lead paint

criteria working basis for defining “lead paint”:

- **term "lead paint" includes:**
paints, varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or coatings used for any purposes;
- **lead is added** to the paint, varnish, lacquer, stain, enamel, glaze, primer or coating;
- **total lead concentration:** defined on a weight percentage of the total non-volatile portion of the product or in the weight of the dried paint film.

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



■ **Promote national regulatory framework**

- Providing international support to developing countries by further elaboration methods to enact comprehensive laws to phase out lead in paint
- Information exchange and international support to strengthen existing national laws
- Information exchange on safe disposal of lead-based paint waste

10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

11

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



■ **Provide assistance to industry**

- Assess feasibility of voluntary phase-out in production of lead-based paints
- Encourage wholesalers and retailers to stop bringing into the market lead-based paints
- Encourage financial incentives to support the use of lead-free paints
- Share knowledge regarding substitutes for lead compounds in paints
- Information exchange on labeling and certification systems on the presence and concentrations of lead in paint

10 May 2009

Second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

12

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



- **Raise awareness of toxicity and alternatives**
 - Conduct information exchanges on health effects & exposure pathways
 - Capacity building to reach health providers and parents regarding children's exposure
 - Discussions on reaching renovators regarding children's exposure
 - Information exchange on steps to reach workers on their vulnerability

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



- **Provide guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure**
 - Encourage nations to conduct health monitoring to estimate prevalence of lead
 - Develop guidelines for simple analytical methods and test kits for ID of lead in paints
 - Information exchange on the pathways of exposure to lead-based paint

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



- **Design and implement prevention programs to reduce potential lead exposure**
 - Enhancing the elimination of lead-based paint in buildings where children are present
 - Minimizing risks of previously applied lead-based paint in buildings by using containment
 - Information exchange on safe methods for conducting renovations and repairs

Lead in Paint
SAICM ICCM Emerging Issues Criteria
Proposed Potential Cooperative Actions



Question and Answer Period