Overview of Status of Global and National Lead Paint Laws

Meeting with China Government Officials

Desiree Narvaez / 16 October 2019 / Beiyuan Grand Hotel/ Beijing/China
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: A small number of countries began to look again at the problem of lead in paint, and to introduce more comprehensive laws.

2000-2019: Lead paint laws have become more restrictive as the health hazards of lead have become better understood and more countries are beginning to introduce laws.
Progress of Implementation of UNEA 3 Resolution 9: Lead in Paint

Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region, as of October 2019

- Europe: 100.0%
- Africa: 78%
- West Asia: 33.0%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 11.1%
- Asia and the Pacific: 27%
- North America: 23%

About 38% of countries have laws.
**Global Perspective: Countries with Confirmed Lead Paint Laws**

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*New since 1 October, 2018

Countries with Lead Paint Laws, as of September 2019

Current Situation in Asia Pacific Region

9 countries (23%) in the Asia Pacific region have lead paint laws

Paint testing studies have been done by IPEN in 13 countries of the region:
• India
• Pakistan
• Nepal
• Bangladesh
• Thailand
• Vietnam
• Singapore
• Indonesia
• Philippines
• Taiwan
• Sri Lanka
• Mongolia
• China
Lead in Paint in China

The Government of China has enacted regulations addressing soluble lead content in paint with a 90 ppm limit.

Exceptions (Soluble lead < 1000 ppm):
- Automobile paints
- Exterior wall paints
- Steel structure antirust paints

IPEN study (2016): levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 ppm in soluble lead were found in 70% of samples.
- Collection of 141 different random samples
- Lowest level identified: below 3 ppm
- Highest level identified: 116000 ppm

China is currently working on strengthening this limit.
Economic Cost of Childhood Lead Exposure in China

- **Economic cost of childhood lead exposure is 227 billion USD in China**
- **Average blood lead level: 6.56 μg/dl**
- **No safe level of lead in blood**
- **16 million children at risk under 5 years old**

Thank you