Overview of Status of Global and National Lead Paint Laws

SAICM GEF Project Lead in Paint Component: Kick Off Workshop

Desiree Narvaez / 29 January 2020 / The Manhattan Hotel/Jakarta / Indonesia
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 problem of lead in paint, and to introduce more comprehensive laws.

2000-2020:
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 January 2020

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
<th>West Asia</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Latin America and the Caribbean</th>
<th>North America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Bangladesh*</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>India</td>
<td></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td></td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td></td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Israel*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New since 1 October, 2018

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 Indonesia

Lack of mandatory standard to regulate Indonesia's paint industry

- Many domestic paint manufacturers have not complied with international standard
- Risk of losing market shares with growing industry competition

Industry expectation for a National Indonesian Standard (SNI) for paint products and ban the use of pigments that use heavy metals to protect domestic consumers.

IPEN study (2015): levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 ppm in soluble lead were found in 83% of samples.

- Collection of 121 different random samples
- Lowest level identified: below 5 ppm
- Highest level identified: 102,000 ppm
Economic Cost of Childhood Lead Exposure in Indonesia

• Economic cost of childhood lead exposure is 37.9 billion USD in Indonesia

• Average blood lead level: 7.27 μg/dl

![No safe level of lead in blood](https://med.nyu.edu/departments-institutes/pediatrics/divisions/environmental-pediatrics/research/policy-initiatives/economic-costs-childhood-lead-exposure-low-middle-income-countries)

• 4 million children at risk under 5 years old

Voluntary partnership led by UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) to prevent children’s exposure to paint containing lead through promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposure to lead paint.

- Establishing and enforcing lead paint laws

---

**Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint**

- Global Status Update (annual publication)
- Lead Paint Regulatory Toolkit
- Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint
- International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Resource package
- Steps to Establish a Lead Paint Law

---

**Advisory Council Members**

- Colombia, Kenya, Moldova, Thailand, IPEN, Health and Environment Alliance, ABA ROLI, World Coating Council, AkzoNobel and Boysen

**Partners**: 97 (23 Govt, 4 IGOs, 43 NGOs, 21 industries and 6 academia)

**Funding**

- In-kind
- USEPA-UNEP Cooperation Agreement (Closed)
Why 90 ppm lead limit?

- "Zero" lead content is not possible because some ingredients contain lead naturally.
- The lower the concentration of lead in paint, the more this is protective of human health.
- 90 ppm as the lowest, technically feasible limit, which represents the most protective limit currently possible.
- 90 ppm limit is promoted as an international limit
  - Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint suggests that the total lead content in paint should be no more than 90 ppm of the weight of the total non-volatile content of the paint or the weight of the dried paint film.
  - Limit already used in Canada, Nepal, USA and the Philippines.

(Source: WHO Policy Brief, to be published)
Thank you