

# Using Country Specific Data on Lead in Paint and Painted Surfaces to Support New Policy



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# Current Regulatory Status – Lead in Paint in Israel

- Lead is restricted in paint used on toys and furniture for infants
- Mandatory standard 1343 requires **labelling** of paints with lead content above 0.15% (1500 ppm)
- Spray paints exempt from labelling requirement
- Many residential paints comply with voluntary requirements of “Green Label” (0.01% maximum content for all heavy metals)

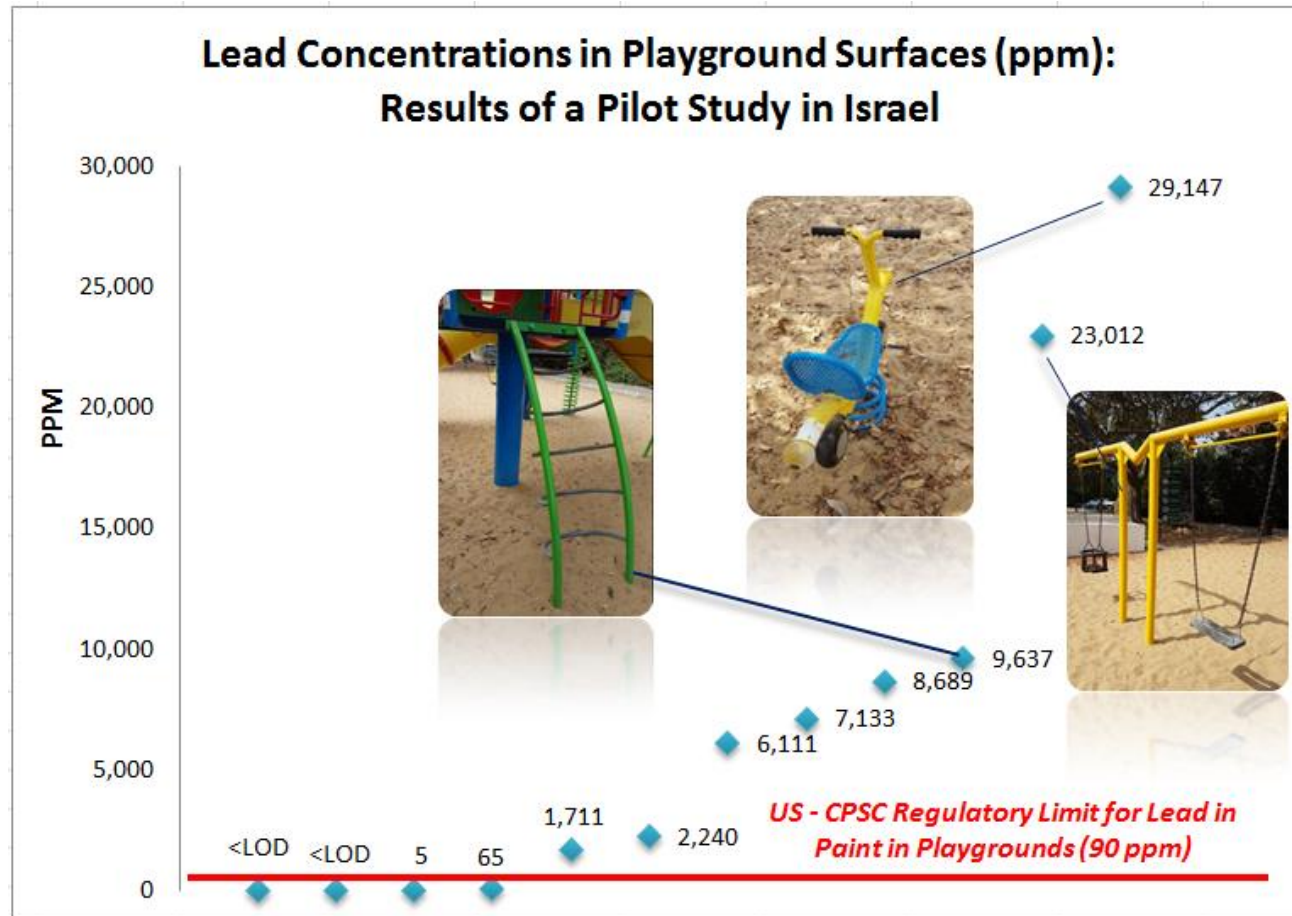


# Driving Factors - Action on Lead Paint

- Israel Ministry of Health joined the Global Alliance in 2016
- Ministries of Health and Economics elected to conduct **screening-level** tests of lead in paint and painted surfaces
- Part of broader approach at Ministry of Health in recent years to reduce potential sources of exposure to lead in consumer products and drinking water

# Collecting Data on Lead in Painted Surfaces

- We found lead levels exceeding 90 ppm in 22 / 25 painted surfaces in playgrounds
- We suspected that industrial paints were being used to paint these surfaces



*Study was funded by the Environment and Health Fund in Jerusalem*

# Collecting Data on Lead in Paints

- We sampled 8 solvent-based paints: none had lead levels above 90 ppm
- We sampled 6 spray paints (red, yellow, orange, green): 3 out of 6 had lead levels above 90 ppm, maximum level was 1200 ppm
- Ministry of Economy tested paint on the market in 2018: 1 (out of 3 tested) had 2.5% lead by weight, product is marketed for outdoor and indoor use

# Process that Resulted in New Standard that Limits Lead in all Paint

- Ministry of Health initiated meetings with paint manufacturers in Israel to present results
- **In June 2018, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv organized a Roundtable Discussion on Lead in Paint including a presentation from Dr. Henry Falk and a video on the Global Alliance**
- Following that discussion, the technical committee at the Standards Institution voted unanimously to restrict lead concentration **IN ALL PAINTS** including industrial and spray paints

# New Standard in Israel on Paint

- Standard 1343 includes general requirements for paints and varnishes (**no exemptions** for spray paints or industrial paints)
- Lead content has to be below 90 ppm, using testing procedure ASTM F2853-10 or CPSC-CH-E1003-09
- Between May 2019 – January 2021 – both the old and the new standards are in force; beginning January 2021 only the new standard is in force

# Contributors to Success in Approving New Standard

- Framing local effort as part of broad **international** effort (Global Alliance, US Embassy in Tel Aviv involvement)
- **Data** indicating that industrial paints containing lead are being used in areas with potential exposure for children
- Open **dialogue** with representatives from industry and importers
- Regulatory **flexibility** – long phase out period
- Press coverage
- **Support** from local NGOs, academics, and physicians



# Acknowledgements

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- Colleagues at the Israel Ministry of Health, Standards Institution and University of Haifa for collaboration on the pilot study
- Environment and Health Fund for funding the pilot study on lead in paints and painted surfaces