

**Regional meeting for the development of a regional standard
on lead in paint in the ECOWAS region**

**Virtual Information Meeting
6 August 2020, 1 pm – 3:30 pm West Africa Time
ECOWAS Commission
Term of Reference and Draft Agenda**

BACKGROUND:

Lead is a cumulative toxicant that poses serious risks to human health and development, with children being especially vulnerable. Lead-containing paint remains one of the major sources of lead exposure for children globally and has been identified as one of the international Emerging Policy Issues of concern by the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Since then, the international community- governments, industry and non-governmental organizations-have been working together to promote the establishment of lead paint laws in all countries. In 2009, the second International Conference on Chemicals Management endorsed the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (or Lead Paint Alliance). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) serve as the joint Secretariat for this partnership, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) is the Chair of the Alliance Advisory Council. The goal of the Lead Paint Alliance is to phase out the manufacture, import and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paint. To achieve this goal globally, the Lead Paint Alliance is encouraging countries to eliminate lead in new paints by establishing and enforcing lead paint laws.

To help with the dissemination of the Lead Paint Alliance tools and to make the advice of the Alliance partners more available to countries wishing to establish laws, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is supporting the lead paint component of a SAICM project on global best practices for emerging chemical policy issues of concern. The ECOWAS Commission is one of the project executing partners along with experts from the following institutions: international organizations (UNEP and WHO), legal organizations (the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative or ABA-ROLI), environmental NGOs (the International Pollutants Elimination Network or IPEN), government technical experts (US EPA) and the paint industry (through the National Clean Production Centers led by Serbia and the World Coatings Council).

Furthermore, the ECOWAS Commission adopted in 2018 strategies an integrated action plan to manage chemicals and hazardous waste that are the drivers for action in the ECOWAS region. The development of lead in paint standard and regulation is part of the activities identified in the Plan. This is in line with the recommendation of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) side event on Lead Paint Elimination in Africa by 2020. The AMCEN meeting recommended that the international partners support the ECOWAS Commission in building capacities on issues related to paint production, paint analysis, alternatives to lead in paint and awareness-raising.

The standard and regulation on lead in paint will be developed and implemented in the fifteen member states of ECOWAS.

An information meeting is convened by the ECOWAS Commission to present issues around lead paint and how the project could assist ECOWAS achieve a regional standard and regulation according to the

ECOSHAM chart in annex. With the assistance of technical experts, the Commission will present global and regional information on the lead paint issue and the need for establishing a regional technical standard and regulation in the ECOWAS region.

OBJECTIVES:

The regional information workshop aims to:

- Provide participants with an understanding of why the elimination of lead paint is important
- Provide an overview of the goal of the Lead Paint Alliance and how the SAICM Lead Paint project supports this goal.
- Enable technical harmonization committee participants to share information on how the regional technical standard could be developed
- Discuss the next steps toward lead paint elimination in ECOWAS

OPERATING DETAILS:

Meeting Co-Facilitators:

- Bernard Koffi, ECOWAS Commission
- Kemji Ajoku, ECOWAS Commission

Participants:

- ECOWAS Commission
- Technical Management Committee Participants;
- SAICM, Environment & Health national Focal points;
- SAICM lead paint project executing partners: UNEP (Chemicals and Health Branch and Regional Office), WHO (Headquarter and Regional Office), IPEN, ABA ROLI and US EPA

DRAFT AGENDA:

1:00 pm – 1:20 pm Welcoming and introduction

- 1:00 pm Welcoming remarks, ECOWAS – Dr. Johnson Boanuh
Opening remarks, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch - Desiree Narvaez
- 1:10 pm Presentation of workshop objectives and outcome, ECOWAS - Bernard Koffi

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm Session 1: Background information on lead in paint

Objective: This session aims to present the background information, assess the need for a lead paint standard and regulation, and share other experiences and useful tools.

- 1:20 pm Presentation of the SAICM GEF project lead in paint component, UNEP CHB - Desiree Narvaez
- 1:30 pm Presentation of the health impacts of lead, WHO AFRO - Guy Mbayo

- 1:40 pm Presentation of the Model Law, ABA ROLI -Amanda Rawls
- 1:50 pm Presentation of the status of implementation in Africa and other regions, USEPA Angela Bandemehr
- 1.50 pm Discussions

2:20 pm– 3:10 pm Session 2: Way forward on the development of an ECOSHAM standard

Objective: This session aims to provide a space for the members of the Technical Management Committee to share their views on the development of a regional technical standard.

- 2:20 pm ECOWAS process for adopting a technical regulation and standard (please see ANNEX)

3:10 pm – 3:30 pm Conclusion and way forward

Objective: The next steps to develop an ECOSHAM standard will be summarized during this session, and the TOR will be agreed on by the participants.

- 3:10 pm Discussion on next steps, ECOWAS - Bernard Koffi
- 3:20 pm Conclusion

Annex

ECOWAS PROCESS FOR ADOPTING A TECHNICAL REGULATION AND STANDARD



