



World Health
Organization



Global Webinar for Policymakers on Eliminating Lead in Paint through Regulatory Action

5 October 2020

15:00-17:00 (GMT +2)

WebEx

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: Asia has highest level 87 % (699.0/799) of Global Economic losses due to lead exposure required special attention. What specific attention has been paid to address this highest economic loss in Asia?

A: UNEP invited 11 countries to join the GEF project. Several are now working on laws. China just revised their laws. We look forward to finalizing more laws. We are open to working with countries to help them draft lead paint laws

Q: There is a need of defining Paint and its scope. As some countries make double standard for different kinds of paints. So, there is need to convey to each country to make ONE single lead paint standards for all categories of paints.

A: Yes, you are right. The next presentation will explain how the Alliance advises countries handle regulating lead paint. We encourage setting a low limit on lead in paint. We also encourage governments to speak with all relevant stakeholders to determine the best approach to setting a low lead limit for paint.

Q: Are there any considerations for other heavy metals that are commonly used in the formulation of paints and industrial coatings? e.g. Chromium, Molybdenum, Cadmium.

A: The Lead Paint Alliance focuses on lead in paint. However, governments often address other paint ingredients in addition to lead. The Alliance is not in a position to provide assistance on additional ingredients other than lead additives.

Q: Is the 90 ppm guideline for all Paints and COATINGS? Or are coatings presently excluded?

A: The 90ppm guideline is recommended in the Model Law for all paints and similar coating materials- so they are intended to be included.

Q: Any considerations for the prevention of corruption with domestic laboratory testing of compliance? Certification? Auditing?

A: Each country conducts its own laboratory processes in parallel with establishing a law. The Model Law recommends using ILAC member labs to reduce any issues.

Q: How we can address the DOUBLE STANDARDS in terms of Lead Content of same multinational paint companies in different countries? And Country who regulate paint under 90 ppm in their own country but allow export paints containing lead above 90 ppm?

A: On the question of countries that regulate only the content of lead in paint for domestic sale, the Model Law recommends that national lead laws apply to all manufacturers, so this would include manufacture for export;

However, this is an enforcement challenge - this is one of the reasons that the SAICM-GEF project is so focused on getting as many countries as possible to pass similar legislation.

This again is why we focus on getting laws passed in as many countries as possible.

On the issue of potential double standards/different standards for one company, manufacturers are most competitive by producing paint with lowest possible limit. Lowest levels maximize market opportunities: can be safely sold in any market.

Regarding the same corporation producing paint in some countries that contains lead, the challenge is how to hold them accountable if they are not violating the law in a country where they include lead additives.

Q: Are there examples of the Lead Paint Alliance assisting at lower levels of government (for example, if the responsible health and environment ministries are at the sub-national level)? Have you encountered, or do you see problems with this approach?

A: The Alliance focuses on the Federal government level, as a lead paint limit is best applied and most protective at this level.

Q: What are the provisions about labeling requirements on each paint can in the model laws? I think labeling of lead content and precautionary message of occupational lead exposure should be there on the paint can.

A: The model law recommends that a visible warning label be used when paint has been exempted from the lead limit, so that consumers are aware of the hazards;

Q: WHAT is the alternative of pigment yellow 34 in road marking and its cost is cheap, give the same properties of lead chromate pigments

A: Inorganic pigments that could potentially substitute PY 34 or PR 104 are: Bismuth vanadate (PY 184), Mixed metal oxides (PY 53 and PBr 24), Iron Oxide Yellow (PY 42) and Iron Oxide Red (PR 101).

Q: Is it possible for WHO country offices to be encouraging the Governments to effectively participate in the phasing out process of lead paint, by establishment of lead paint laws. Especially in the designation of Lead Agency to draft the laws. What the Government needs is

Q: There should be no option for Lead Free Paint and Lead Paints. All Paints should be Lead Free. This should be made clear to participating countries. Those countries which do not have lead paint laws should be encouraged to enact laws.

A: The Alliance agrees that there is no need to add lead to paint. A limit of zero is not possible due to residual levels, as noted by Steve Sides. The Alliance encourages all countries to enact laws.

Comment: The Governments should adopt No Lead Paints in Government Establishments, Educational Institutions, Military & Police Establishments, Sports complexes etc.