Lead as a chemical of concern across product sectors

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“Working together towards a world in which toxic chemicals are no longer produced or used in ways that harm human health and the environment”

Various reports on hazardous chemicals at www.ipen.org
Concern at all levels of exposure

• No safe blood lead levels for children: Brain damage due to (low-level) lead exposure during early ages is irreversible and untreatable. Leads to lower IQ, hyperactivity, inattentiveness, failure to graduate from high school, etc

• Concerns for adults: Low-level lead exposure is an important risk factor for heart disease
LEAD EXPOSURE CAN OCCUR THROUGH...

- **Inhalation** of particles released by industry or recycling
- **Ingestion** of contaminated soil or dust from decaying lead paint—particularly when children play on the ground and put toys or fingers in their mouths
- **Lead-containing products** such as lead-glazed ceramics and some traditional medicines or cosmetics
- **Food or water** contaminated with lead

There is no safe level of lead exposure
Relevant for all project components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Electronics</th>
<th>Toys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Lead–tin solder</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Decoration</td>
<td>PVC in electric wiring</td>
<td>Lead–tin solder</td>
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<td>• Anticorrosive primers</td>
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<td>PVC</td>
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<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>Lead stabilizers in PVC</td>
<td>Mechanical parts</td>
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<td>Lead stabilizers in PVC e.g. carpets, pipes and other home products</td>
<td>PVC in electric wiring</td>
<td>Jewelry</td>
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**Lead tops Echa notifications for SVHCs in articles**

Over 80 notifications for four chemicals received by deadline
Examples of approaches

• EU legislation
  • REACH SVHC, restriction and authorization processes
  • Electronics: WEEE and RoHS directives restricting use of specific hazardous substances and waste processes
  • Toy Directive and Product Standards
  • Legislation on substances in construction products
  • Food and drinking water safety limits

• Voluntary approaches
  • Product certifications
  • Procurement requirements
  • Industry commitments
Some lessons learned

• Multiple sources and pathways require comprehensive approaches, e.g. through
  • Exposure limits e.g. blood lead level limits, air and dust levels, soil, drinking water
  • Broad category restrictions e.g. paint, toys, consumer products, electronics, etc.

• Information sharing and cooperation between different Ministries/Agencies necessary early, precautionary action

• Tools to encourage early voluntary action can be effective for certain cases

• Regulations provide level playing field, rewards early action

• Capacity building and awareness raising important throughout the value chain
Thank You!