

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON LEAD IN PAINT

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town

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## Discussion Digest

### Topic of Discussion: Where are there laws? A global and regional overview.

The first Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) discussion for 2021, presented by Kenneth Davis, UNEP and Elena Jardan, WHO, reviewed three questions focusing on the newly released Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint that reports on new laws, new tools and momentum in global progress toward eliminating lead in paint. **To view the PowerPoint presentation of the discussion, click [here](#).**

### ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



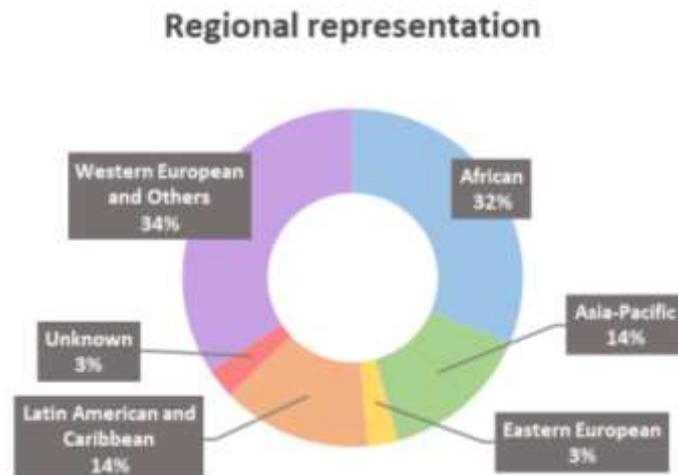
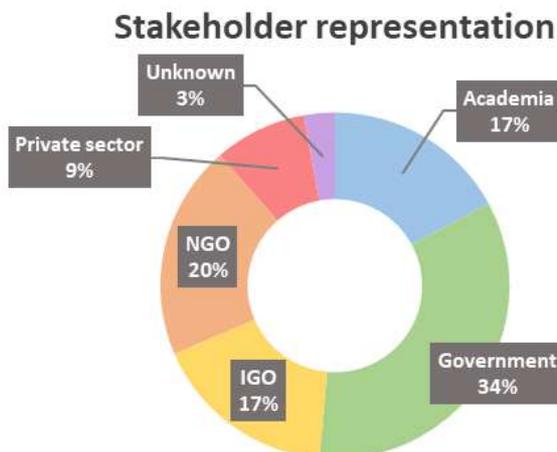
**Kenneth Davis** is a policy and technical expert specializing in the role of science in shaping multilateral cooperation on the environment. Trained as a geologist, he began his career working on transboundary environmental issues as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine, He later joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of International Affairs, where he served on the U.S. delegation negotiating the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In 2014, he joined the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch. His work includes managing projects on reducing mercury use in artisanal mining and other sectors, facilitating scientific and policy assessments on mercury and other chemicals, and coordinating activities with the Global Mercury Partnership. He is also the Programme Officer in charge of all lead-related activities, including lead paint and used lead-acid batteries.



**Elena Jardan** is a consultant at WHO in the Chemicals and health unit, responsible for lead-related projects. She is a medical doctor in preventive toxicology with advanced degrees in hygiene and public health. She has developed materials to support government decision-making, e.g. on chemicals regulation (including health and economic impacts), workers' health, and implementation of international agreements. She has organized several International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week campaigns.

### 2021 DISCUSSION 1 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

**TOTAL ATTENDEES FOR DISCUSSION 1: 35**  
 Female – 63%  
 Male – 34%  
 Unknown – 3%



# Lead in Paint Community of Practice 2021 Discussion 1 Summary

1. Newly released **Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint** that reports on new laws, new tools and momentum in global progress toward eliminating lead in paint. As of early March 2021, 79 countries have a lead paint law in place. In comparison, only 67 countries had a law in 2017. In addition, 13% of countries are in the process of drafting laws. The Lead Paint Alliance groups countries in stages towards finalizing a lead paint law as follows:
  - Stage 0: Steps towards laws not yet taken** – Countries where no progress has been recorded since the beginning of the project.
  - Stage 1: Government initial interest** - Countries contacting partners, designating a focal point, submitting a country approach document or which participated in the 2019 “Promoting Regulatory Action by Governments to Phase out Lead in Paint” regional workshops.
  - Stage 2: First steps taken** - Countries with plans to draft a law or have held a stakeholder meeting.
  - Stage 3: Early stages of drafting** - Countries which have organized a drafting meeting, and have produced a draft law.
  - Stage 4: Final stages of drafting** - Countries which have produced a final draft law and are awaiting political validation and endorsement.
  - Stage 5: Final lead paint law** - Countries which have adopted a lead paint law.
2. The **elimination of lead exposure at its source is the single most effective action to protect people from the harmful effects of lead**. However, the continued use of lead in paint in many parts of the world remains an important source of exposure. **To prevent lead exposure, laws, regulations or enforceable standards are needed** in every country to stop the manufacture, sale and import of lead-containing paints.
3. To create a level playing field, it is **helpful when all the countries in a region have consistent and strong laws**. Benefits of consistent regional laws include:
  - Support an extension of market shares for paint producers manufacturing compliant paint across the region
  - Avoid the creation of barriers to trade between countries in the region
  - Prevent trade of non-regulated lead paint across borders with neighbouring countries
4. **Awareness-raising is a key activity to generate concern about lead paint** – among different groups of stakeholders and to ensure that the issue is discussed both publicly and by policymakers. The World Health Organization published a newly developed Guidance document on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint. The Guidance provides tools to support advocacy or awareness-raising activities to build momentum in the country toward the development, adoption and implementation of lead paint laws.
5. **Building a campaign toward lead laws**, that features in the Global Status Update, involves deciding on several issues beforehand, namely:
  - Deciding on the outcome
  - Deciding on the audience
  - Deciding on what information to present – depends on audience and desired outcome
  - Deciding on the key messages and actions, including
    - general messages and
    - messages based around calls to action for different audiences
6. There are several possibilities for **events featuring the Global Status Update**:
  - **Appropriate actions based on country stages**
  - **Workshops, webinars and round-table discussions** with stakeholders: to present technical information and explanation of the rationale and supporting evidence for the elimination of lead paint
  - **Social media posts** can be used to convey key messages about lead paint and can provide links to more detailed information
7. **Academia plays an important role** in supporting and advocating for establishing a lead paint law or improve the existing one. There are successful examples from Iran, South Africa and USA.

## ANNEX

### DETAILED SUMMARY OF 2021 DISCUSSION 1

**Disclaimer:** The information in this digest represents the opinions of members participating from different stakeholder groups expressed during the discussion. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the opinion or the stated policy of the United Nations Environment Programme, the SAICM Secretariat, the GEF or UCT, nor does citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

#### THE DISCUSSION WAS STRUCTURED AROUND THREE QUESTIONS AND THE KEY DISCUSSION INPUTS FROM PARTICIPANTS ARE PRESENTED UNDER EACH:

##### Q1. What is your country currently doing to move toward the next stage in establishing a law? If progress is not being made, what barriers are in the way?

###### **BENIN (NGO)**

- Bénin is at the early stages of drafting.
- In December 2020, as Benin is an ECOWAS member, it was agreed to develop a regional lead paint standard.
- Benin must work with all the stakeholders, specifically with NGOs that are working already in this area, with the government considering their work and encouraging them.
- The government must work closely with stakeholders not as authority but as partner.
- The government must share resources with stakeholders.
- CSO are very important for campaigns, government must collaborate with them and give them responsibilities.

###### **COLOMBIA (NGOs)**

- Colombia has Law 2041 July 27, 2020, where the limit of 90 ppm is established.  
<https://rds.org.co/es/resultado-busqueda/ley-2741-27-de-julio-2020.ambiente-libre-de-plomo>
- Civil society proposes that by regulating law 2041 the use of pigments that contain lead, lead should be prohibited.
- This would include compounds in paints like Lead Chromate Molybdate Sulfate (Red), Lead Chromate (Yellow), etc.

###### **IRAN (Academia)**

- In Iran since more than a decade ago the activity on level of lead in paint was started by the Standard organization.
- Many academic papers have also been published in the last 20 years.
- According to the national standard organization of Iran acceptable amount of lead in cold paint is 100ppm.

###### **JORDAN (Government)**

- In Jordan there is legislation and decisions issued by Ministry of Health that regulate lead in paints and are reflected in the Jordanian standards specifications for paints.
- These gave exceptions for local industries to import and use lead chromate pigments in industrial paints, car paints and road marking.

###### **MADAGASCAR (Government)**

- Madagascar is currently in the process of developing legislation on lead paint.
- For the establishment of a law, we will proceed in two distinct steps:
  - The first step is the development of a national standard on lead paint with a lead content acceptable to all stakeholders.
  - The second step is the establishment of an executive order to implement this national standard with the inclusion of the following:
    - Key terms to ensure that the scope of the law is clear.
    - The regulatory threshold for total lead content in paint.
    - The effective dates of the new regulatory requirements.
    - Methods to ensure compliance and enforcement.
- There is a plan to organize two workshops:
  - The first workshop is a workshop for presenting the Lead Paint project to the key stakeholders and the relevant participant and official launch of the standardization workshop on lead paint.
  - The second workshop is a workshop to popularize the National Standard on Lead Paint Content to the general public and various stakeholders.

###### **SERBIA**

- Serbia has adopted REACH-based legislation.

<b>(NGO)</b>	- No special Lead Paint law, but rather prohibition of lead substances.
<b>SOUTH AFRICA (Academia)</b>	- South Africa is taking time, but legislation is coming to move from 600ppm to 90 ppm. - When reviewing the report, only 6 African countries have lead paint laws. - Secondly, that of the 79 countries globally, only 35% have laws restricting to 90 ppm.
<b>SWITZERLAND (IGO)</b>	- The Lead Paint Alliance is working closely with ECOWAS - under the SAICM GEF project - to develop a regional standard to limit lead in paint. - This will trigger lead regulations in this important group of African countries
<b>US EPA (Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council Chair)</b>	- In the report the 35% with 90 ppm is out of the 40 countries that have established a single regulatory limit. - 39 countries have chemical-specific regulatory limits.
<b>ZAMBIA (NGO)</b>	- The first step for Zambia is: The Director General of Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) has taken the responsibility as a Lead Agency to draft the Regulation to regulate the lead content to 90ppm. - The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry has already approved the voluntary standards and Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) has Gazetted the paint standard ZS 1185 for public notification and use.
<b>STATEMENTS BY PRESENTER (UNEP):</b>	- <b>Question: What would you say, in your opinion, is the biggest barrier for African countries to introduce a lead paint law</b> - <b>Response by UNEP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perhaps it's a case of many other legislative priorities that are taking precedence.</li> <li>- Perhaps a lack of awareness.</li> </ul>

Throughout the discussion, informal polls were conducted to help encourage discussion among the participants. They do not provide any representative data but rather provide a snapshot of participant views.

**Poll 1 Results (N=6)**

**What type of organization do you represent?**

Government – 16%

Industry – 33%

Intergovernmental Organisation – 33%

Non-governmental Organisation – 16%

**Poll 2 Results (N=7):**

**Identify the stage of law development that your country is currently at:**

Stage 0 – Steps towards laws not yet taken – 14%

Stage 4 – Final stages of drafting – 28%

Stage 5 – Final lead paint law – 42%

We have a final law but there is still some work to do – 14%

**Q2. In your opinion, how is activity to establish laws in your region leading to action toward laws in your own country, or alternatively, how have laws in your country led to action toward laws in your region? If it is not, how could the benefits of consistent laws across a region motivate action in your country?**

**CANADA  
(NGO)**

- In Tajikistan a non-governmental organisation The Foundation in Support of Civil Initiatives lead the process of drafting the national regulation on paint safety.
- The regulation inter alia states: In paintwork materials for painting internal surfaces of residential and (or) public premises, internal and external surfaces and furniture products, children's playgrounds, products for children and teenagers, amusement rides, products in contact with food and used for painting water treatment and water treatment equipment, lead content in recalculation to dry residue shall not exceed 0.009% in paintwork materials.
- Tajikistan has not previously had a regulation on lead in paints.
- This work was inspired by GAELP, IPEN and the process of strengthening the lead paint regulation in countries of Eurasian Economic Union.
- Having a global standard approved internationally will help countries and regions, facilitate international trade, and ensure information transparency within and outside the supply chain.

**COLOMBIA  
(NGO)**

- Civil society activity led to the drafting of Law 2041 in Colombia, with the support of IPEN, the first report on lead content in paint was made. <https://rds.org.co/es/novedades/informe-nacional-plomo-en-pinturas-a-base-de-solventes-para-uso-domestico-en-colombia>

**ECUADOR  
(NGO)**

- In a meeting that was held in November of 2020, with representatives of the Ministry of Production of Ecuador, it was said that there would be an opportunity to draw up a Technical Regulation at the Andean Community level that regulates lead content.
- At this moment there is a waiting period in which it will be determined how the law in Peru and Colombia are definitively established before taking up this opportunity to draft a regulation.

**IRAN  
(Academia)**

- Establishing laws is more difficult in developing countries and particularly enforcements are not in a good situation in these countries.
- Surely recent global problems affected all these laws globally.
- EU REACH now is helping a lot but still in the Middle East and North African (MENA) countries need help for laws, regulations and particularly for enforcement for toxic compounds.
- Hopefully that US also get prepared for more help to the MENA countries for these issues.

**MADAGASCAR  
(Government)**

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, for example, is an international treaty designed to reduce the flow of hazardous wastes between countries that is almost universally ratified by the United Nations.
- There is also at the regional level of Africa, The Bamako Convention – a treaty of African nations on the Prohibition of the Import into Africa of Hazardous Wastes and on the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes generated in Africa.
- Therefore, a regional law helps a lot for countries.
- It is helpful when all the countries in a region have consistent and strong laws which will prevent trade of lead paint across borders with neighbouring countries and can support an extension of the market share for paint producers manufacturing compliant paint across the region.

**SERBIA  
(NGO)**

- Serbia is an EU candidate country, therefore, Serbia is in process of harmonisation of legislation with that of the EU. [Note: Serbia already regulates lead compounds in paint.]
- In that sense, a comprehensive package of laws, including REACH-based, was passed.
- it is very important for the industry to have the same or similar laws in the region.
- It is then much easier to import and export products and raw materials.
- Banning production, trade and sale of lead components is also a good global strategy.

**SOUTH AFRICA  
(Academia)**

- Zambia has drafted standards and now is about to commence the law drafting.

**SURINAME  
(Government)**

- The environmental law is a framework.
- In Suriname there is no limit/standard on this matter.
- There are two companies that produces paint, the other paints/paint products are imported.

**SWITZERLAND  
(IGO)**

- ECOWAS is taking some actions to develop a regional standard on lead in paint.

**UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
(Private Sector)**

- The EPA developed comprehensive training within the RRP program covering work rules for safely working in areas having lead products.
- We used this model in the development of [www.noleadfines.com](http://www.noleadfines.com) web/mobile app.
- USA have international development projects in your country impacted lead as a hazard towards the development regulation.
- Calculating the relationship between downloads, registrations and training completion levels provides important metrics to governmental agencies can use to postulate these results for planning implementation.
- Currently implementation is relatively impossible to measure.

**US EPA  
(Lead Paint  
Alliance Advisory  
Council Chair)**

- The Lead Paint Alliance currently focuses on assisting countries in establishing limits for lead in new paint (manufacture, distribution and import).
- The Alliance recognizes that implementing laws is difficult.
- That is why the Model Law for lead paint provides model provisions for a law that are intended to be straightforward to implement.
- It suggests setting a low limit for lead in paint with clear implementation dates and enforcement provisions.
- The Model Law is available here: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/model-law-and-guidance-regulating-lead-paint>
- The Alliance would be happy to help with reviewing lead paint standards, if that would be helpful.
- The Alliance available to help any country working on drafting standards or laws (regulations, decrees, etc).
- It would be helpful if regional laws do not delay implementation of national laws that might be able to come into effect soon.
- The sooner we protect children from lead paint, the better.
- The global efforts of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint establish goals and guidelines that countries can incorporate into their own regulations.
- The regional view may empower some countries to come up to a shared standard so that only paint without lead can be traded in that country and ultimately, the whole region.

**ZAMBIA  
(NGO)**

- The most cardinal thing, the ZEMA, is taking the responsibility as a Lead Agency to draft the regulation.

**STATEMENTS BY  
PRESENTER  
(UNEP):**

- **Question: What would a global approach look like?**
- **Response by UNEP:**
  - Global approach looks like what is currently being done now - each country establishes lead paint laws that stop manufacture, distribution and import of lead paint.
  - That way eventually lead paint will be banned.

**Poll 3 Results (N=6):**

**Do you think actions towards lead paint laws in your country are having an impact on neighboring countries?**

Yes – 83%  
I don't know – 16%

**Poll 4 Results (N=9):**

**Are actions towards lead paint laws in neighboring countries having an impact on your country?**

Yes – 55%  
No – 22%  
I don't know – 22%

**Q3. In your opinion, how can your country conduct an awareness-raising campaign using the 2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint to build support toward laws? If an awareness-raising campaign will not work right now, how else could your country use the Global Status Update to build support towards lead paint laws?**

**COLOMBIA  
(NGO)**

- At present, Colombia continues to inform the population about the damage caused by lead in paint, due to the lack of inspection, surveillance and control capacity that the authorities have
- Our organisation proposes the prohibition of lead pigments <https://rds.org.co/es/novedades/la-exposicion-al-plomo.hablemos-sobre-la-ley-2041>

**IRAN  
(Academia)**

- Potentially Iran, with many active academics, would be able to give help widely in the region but for now hopefully other issues get solved first!

**MADAGASCAR  
(Government)**

- For Madagascar awareness campaign is very useful to inform the population in the risk and danger of lead in paint.

**SERBIA  
(NGO)**

- In Serbia there is regular monitoring of the lead level in children blood close to lead and zinc mine.
- The levels are very high but it's an obligation of the mine to finance this monitoring.

**SOUTH AFRICA  
(Academia)**

- Lead poisoning is a medical notifiable condition in South Africa.
- Thus, poisoning cases would be followed up by an environmental health practitioner.
- SMS messaging like mHealth should be used for people with no internet as a means of raising awareness.

**UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
(Private sector)**

- Self-interest from stakeholders will drive a push to create uniform standards that can be understood for creating actuarial calculations.

**US EPA  
(Lead Paint  
Alliance)**

- In the US, there is the PEHUS (pediatric environmental health specialty units) – physical sites throughout the us that provide information on specific environmental health issues.
- They have several publications on these issues: [https://www.pehsu.net/About\\_PEHSU.html](https://www.pehsu.net/About_PEHSU.html)

Advisory  
Council Chair)

ZAMBIA  
(NGO)

- Children's Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF) will undertake an awareness campaign using the key partners; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and others including the Health professionals, SMEs, traditional leaders, and the community.

STATEMENTS BY  
PRESENTER  
(WHO):

- An example of political advocacy by medical practitioners is the American Heart Association and other groups advocating for actions to reduce air pollution.
- **Question: in a report that some countries set their lead limit at more than 90ppm, so how can I be sure that there is no risk to the population if the lead content is set at 600ppm or 1000ppm?**
- **Response by WHO:**
  - The limit chosen by a government is part of a stakeholder discussion process.
  - The Alliance has identified 90 ppm as being the lowest, technically achievable limit.
  - Some of the higher limits were set before the Model Law and in some cases in response to stakeholder concerns.
  - The main goal is to reduce lead in paint by as much as possible.
  - 90 ppm is feasible for all paints where lead is no longer added.
  - Please see the WHO Technical Brief on Lead Paint for more information about the 90 ppm limit.  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240005143>

**Poll 5 Results (N=11):**

**What kind of communication channels do you feel would be most effective to promote the global status update to build support to promote laws in your country? (multiple answers could be chosen)**

Traditional news stories (radio, tv, print) – 25%  
Social media – 22%  
Traditional events (round table discussions, webinars) – 16%  
Press release – 13%  
Social media influencers – 13%  
Paid advertising – 5%  
Other – 2%

**Poll 6 Results (N=10):**

**What forms of social media are most effective in your country for raising awareness? (multiple answers could be chosen)**

Facebook – 21%  
WhatsApp – 17%  
Instagram – 17%  
Twitter – 14%  
LinkedIn – 14%  
TikTok – 10%  
Other – 3%

**Poll 7 Results (N=3):**

**When you share social media messages, how many people do you generally reach?**

“437”  
“100”  
“100”

## Useful resources:

- **Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead Paint (UNEP)**  
<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35105/GS-2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
  - **Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint (EN, AR, CH, FR, RU, SP) (UNEP)**  
<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/model-law-and-guidance-regulating-lead-paint>
  - **SAICM/UCT LiP CoP 2020 Discussion 1 Digest: Steps toward adoption of national lead paint laws**  
<https://saicmknowledge.org/sites/default/files/meterial/LiP%20discussion%201%20digest.pdf>
  - **Countries with Legally-Binding Controls on Lead Paint (WHO)**  
<https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/legally-binding-lead-controls>
  - **Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint (WHO)**  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240011496>
    - **Technical Brief on Global Elimination of lead paint: why and how countries should take action (WHO)**  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240005143>
  - **SAICM/UCT LiP CoP 2020 Discussion 3 Digest – Awareness raising for lead in paint elimination**  
<https://saicmknowledge.org/sites/default/files/meterial/LiP%20discussion%203%20digest.pdf>
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**LiP CoP:** The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) created this Community of Practice (CoP) to foster online discussions and address key issues on Lead in Paint (LiP) among stakeholders from governments, international organizations, industry, academia and civil society.

This CoP is contributing to the SAICM/GEF project on Emerging Chemicals Policy Issues Knowledge Management Component. This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

If you have any question or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com).

Join the LiP CoP at: <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>