Industry Perspective:
Restricting Lead Use in Paint

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The World Coatings Council

• Established 1992 to advance the interests of the organizations representing the paint and coatings industry around the world

• Granted Official Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC, IMO, and UNEP – supporting the UN and its partners in many areas

• Supporter of UN Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint/UN Lead Paint Alliance (UN LPA) since the initial formative efforts in 2010, building on WCC’s established 2009 policy statement on lead restrictions
WCC Associations and Member Companies have officially become partners to the UN LPA....

- ABRAFATI Associacao Brasileira dos Fabricantes de Tintas (2016) - Brazil
- American Coatings Association (ACA) (2016) - USA
- Asociacion Española de Fabricantes de Pintura y Tinta de Imprimir (ASEFAPI) (2017) - Spain
- Asociacion Nacional de Fabricantes de Pinturas y Tintas A.C. (ANAFAPY, A.C.) (2016) - Mexico
- Association of Turkish Paint Industry (BOSAD) (2017) - Turkey
- AkzoNobel (2015) – The Netherlands
- Australian Paint Manufacturers’ Federation Inc. (APMF) (2016) - Australia
- British Coating Federation Ltd (BCF) (2016) – United Kingdom
- Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA) (2016) - Canada
- Fendwall Paints and Chemical Products (2016) - Nigeria
- Federation Francaise des Industries des Peintures, Encres, Couleurs, Colles et Adhesifs, Preservation du Bois (FIPEC) (2016) - France
- German Paint and Printing Ink Association (VdL) (2016) - Germany
- World Coatings Council (previously IPPIC) (2013) - International
- Jotun A/S (2016) – Norway
- Malaysian Paint Manufacturers’ Association (2017) - Malaysia
- Nano Science and Electronic Communication (NASEC) (2017) - Switzerland
- Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc. (2015) - Philippines
- Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers (PAPM) (2017) - Philippines
- Portuguese Paint Association (APT) (2016) - Portugal
- Powder Coating Research Group (2019) - USA
- Swiss Coatings Federation (VSLF) (2016) - Switzerland
- VES SA (2019) - Romania

EXAMPLE: Industry support at UN LPA sponsored workshops, industry events and NGO outreach helps spread the word on eliminating lead use in paint...
Waterborne Paints – never used Lead Compounds and increasing in Global Market Share (Indexed to REGIONS)

Source: World Coatings Council Global Market Analysis – August 2020
Government action on lead restrictions gets widespread industry support when it...

- Advances the established public health rationale
- Integrates technical reformulation guidance and directs the required focus of industry (including timeframe for compliance)
- Addresses very real problem of available laboratory capacity and testing
  - SOLUTION: Support “conformity assessment” – giving industry laboratories a role in compliance verification
- Embraces a harmonized approach
  - Affirming that national producers can, in fact, have access to international markets
90 ppm in the UN Model Law applies to the *incidental presence* of lead as a contaminant.

- The UN Model Law references 90 ppm as the lowest, technically achievable residual lead (not intentionally added) content currently in established laws and regulations.
- Different (higher) residual lead content limits are in place around the globe, and may be considered if industry finds the 90 ppm limit to be a challenge.
- The FAQ’s for the UN Model Law describe the rationale for “alternate limits”, using marine antifouling paints as an example.
- Industry needs to work closely with governments and other stakeholders to address this issue.


NOTE: Percent reduction calculations affirm a 600 ppm residual limit eliminates 99.3% of the lead in pigmented enamels, and a 90 ppm limit eliminates 99.9%.
The Goals of the UN Lead Paint Alliance will advance quickly when all stakeholders acknowledge that:

- Different legal instruments for mandatory compliance can be used to eliminate lead from paint
- The existence of different residual limits does not compromise the effectiveness of lead use restrictions
- Different test methods are available, and all are similar in effectiveness

From industry’s perspective, there is value in seeking common ground on CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT. *Paint product testing done for one country or by one laboratory (using comparable methods) should be accepted as evidence of compliance in another country*
SAICM GEF Project - Lead in Paint component

Demonstration pilots with paint manufacturers

• To showcase best practices in reformulation to achieve 90 ppm lead in paint, the SAICM GEF Project is working with industry in targeted countries.

• 30 SMEs were selected in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Jordan, Nigeria, Indonesia and China for industrial pilot tests on paint reformulation, using the draft technical guidelines developed by the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) in Serbia.

• Launching workshops were organized in Jordan, Peru, and China to engage respective governments and the paint industry in the project.

LEAD IN PAINT: Output 1.1 Paint Reformulation Steps

1. Project partner selected companies
2. Cooperation agreements are signed
3. Products to be reformulated are selected
4. Suitable alternatives are defined and assessed
5. Pigments for substitution selected
6. Laboratory testing started
7. Testing of the production
8. NCPC Jordan (1) Reformulation process in the lab finished
9. NCPC Ecuador (1) NCPC Jordan (3)
10. SMEs expected to finish the paint reformulation by October 2020
The take home message:

- Industry supports lead use elimination,
- Collaboration among stakeholders has been the key to progress,
- Reformulation Guidelines available for SMEs
- Continue to explore CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

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