

SYNOPSIS

THE 6TH NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OF ACTION: 21ST TO 27TH OCTOBER 2018

Lead in paint was identified as one of the major emerging policy issues during the second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in 2009. The ICCM launched the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint under leadership of the World Health Organization and UN Environment in order to protect human health and the environment. The goal of Lead Paint Alliance is to voluntarily focus and catalyze the efforts of diverse stakeholders to prevent children's exposure and minimize occupational exposure to lead in paint.

The overall objective is to establish legal limits and phase out lead in paint by the year 2020, and eventually eliminates the associated risks. This undertaking is comparable to previous concerted international commitment to encourage national regulatory actions to eliminate leaded petrol. It is in this context that the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action takes place annually on the third week October from 2013.

- 1) Encouraging governments to enforce national legal limits on lead in paint.
- 2) Encouraging industries to stop the manufacture and sale of lead paint.
- 3) Increasing awareness of the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint, to prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production and sale of lead paints.
- 4) Increasing and diversifying the number of Lead Paint Alliance partners.

Kenya is one of the eleven Members of the Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council under the representation of Dr. Faridah Hussein Were of the University of Nairobi. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of USA serves as the Chair of the Council to facilitate the overall cohesions and coordination of related activities. The Department of Chemistry of the University of Nairobi is a contributor of lead alliance in line with the projects and programs undertaken related to phasing out of lead paint.

*From 2013, the issues of lead in paint came into public domain in Kenya with strong collaborations and involvement **of Lead Paint Alliance Partners, Policy Makers, Regulators, Researchers among other Key Stakeholders, Paint Industries have been our major sponsors and Diverse Media and the General public. Since then measurable levels of progress and commitment have been made towards establishing legal limit to phase out lead in all paints.***

The technical committee for Kenya Bureau of Standard composed of paint manufacturers developed the national lead standard of permissive lead total lead content of 90 ppm. Kenya therefore joins the rest of the world with a legal standard of 90 ppm maximum total lead limit to regulate paints. The harmonized East Africa draft lead standard 90 ppm total lead limit is open for public views before its finalized within sixty days.

Paint manufacturers are able to produce lead free paint, with total lead content lower than 90 ppm by avoiding the use of leaded materials. The suppliers are able

provide raw materials that are unleaded and they produce similar quality and colour of the paints. Most effective way of phasing out lead in paint is by enforcing the lead paint standard to ensure that consumers get and use lead free paints.

This year, Kenya will again join the Global Community in observing the 6th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action that falls on 21st to 27th October, 2018. A series of activities culminating in a one-day Road Show on 27th October 2018 have been scheduled to mark this year's event. The Department of Chemistry of the University of Nairobi is organising these activities in collaboration with UN Environment under sponsorship of Basco Paints. UNEP will publicise the event.

The event will bring together more than 600 participants from UN Environment, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Kenya Chemical Society, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute, University of Nairobi staff, University Student Associations, Lead Paint Alliance Partners and other Key Institutions. I

The event will serve as a platform to advocate for lead free paint in respect of the newly developed National Lead Paint Standard that require enforcement. It will also provide an opportunity to demonstrate the commitment of various sectors towards phasing out of lead in paint. Diverse media will publicise the activities globally.