



International Paint & Printing Ink Council

International Paint and Printing Ink Council, Inc. (IPPIC) STATEMENT OF SUPPORT World Health Organization (WHO) International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action October 25-31, 2015

The International Paint and Printing Ink Council, Inc. (IPPIC) supports the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, October 25-31, 2015. To mark this important week, the American Coatings Association (ACA) as IPPIC Secretariat and fellow associations around the globe rededicate their collective support of WHO and United Nations' Environmental Program's (UNEP) Lead Prevention Alliance (LPA).

Background

In 2004 IPPIC was granted official consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in recognition of its stated interest in supporting the mission of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Since that time, IPPIC representatives have worked to advance UN efforts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Labeling of Hazardous Chemicals, on occupational cancer risks with the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and on marine environmental pollution and technical standards for antifoulants and other protective coatings before the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

More recently (2009), IPPIC established a policy statement with respect to the use of lead compounds in paint and coatings products:

"IPPIC supports the long-standing effectiveness of lead-use restrictions that are already in place in certain jurisdictions and recommends their widespread adoption by authorities not currently regulating the use of lead in paint and printing ink. Such restrictions may be accomplished through specific legislation or regulation, formal voluntary agreements, or by other means that ensure widespread and verifiable compliance."

The widespread publication of this policy by IPPIC and its member associations was brought to the attention of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and World Health Organization (WHO) officials who were working to establish a partnership effort to seek global restrictions on the use of lead in paints. The WHO/UNEP effort has come to be known as the "Lead Paint Alliance" or LPA, and IPPIC has been an official partner in the effort since its inception, and currently serves on the LPA Advisory Group.

The LPA emerged near the end of a very successful effort by WHO and UNEP to advance a UN Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, which is widely credited for engaging a host of governments, industries and NGO's in the orderly phase-out of the production and use of fuels containing lead additives.

The effort to advance global restrictions on lead use in paint however, has required a markedly different approach. Whereas the oil refining and fuels industry had a finite and manageable number of specific facilities to engage and facilitate the transition, the paint industry has literally thousands of companies, many small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) around the world, with widely varying degrees of technical capabilities and in many cases limited access to suitable raw materials.

Recognizing this, IPPIC continues to affirm that the only way to establish reliable and enforceable restrictions on lead use in paint is through government action. Having said that, though, IPPIC does not believe the path for governments to establish legally enforceable restrictions should be long and contentious. Many specific and successful examples for the control of lead use in paint have been established around the world and can serve as a model for governments seeking effective solutions.

Special Emphasis on Lead Use in Residential and Decorative Paint

Existing restrictions on lead use in paint have largely tracked with increasing understanding of the health and environmental risks associated with potential exposures, and have been widely acknowledged and supported by industry from around the world. In general, current established restrictions have emphasized restrictions on lead use in products known as *Residential and Decorative Paints*.

Residential and decorative paints are those paints that are widely available to the public to beautify and protect the surfaces we encounter every day, including our homes, workplaces and public buildings. In some parts of the world, decorative paints are referred to as architectural coatings. More often they are referred to as “house paints”, “residential paints” or “consumer paints”.

It is important to note that modern residential and decorative paint formulations are largely waterborne emulsion paints (over 85% of the decorative paint market globally and growing), which have gained widespread favor due to the ease of application and clean-up and enhanced performance characteristics. Waterborne emulsion paints are not, and have never been, formulated with lead compounds.

Increasingly, the continued use of lead in residential and decorative paints is in products that contain organic resins and solvents (VOC’s), also known as “oil-based paints”. Often these resins are derived from seed oil (i.e. linseed, tung, tall) and/or from refined petroleum products. It is in these residential and decorative paints that lead-containing pigments can be found, as well as lead compounds to aid drying (i.e. lead naphthenate), and in some limited cases residual lead catalysts (i.e. litharge used to make oil resins).

Little is known about the extent of paint use in many developing countries. What is known is that as national economies grow, more residential and decorative paints are likely to be used, as new structures are built and existing housing improved. Potential deterioration of these painted surfaces and resultant lead exposure to children need not occur, as restrictions on lead use in decorative paint can be quickly established with wide supported from industry and the public health community. All that is needed is for governments to act and enforce the required restrictions.

IPPIC Contribution to the LPA

IPPIC and its member associations strongly support the LPA’s stated focus on engaging governments to eliminate lead use by the paint industry, with special emphasis on residential and decorative paints. IPPIC will continue to engage in outreach to industry to increase awareness of the adverse health and environmental impacts from lead exposure, the need for effective regulatory controls on lead use in paints, and the opportunities for industry support and action. Working with fellow partners in the LPA, IPPIC expects to advance critical new initiatives that will establish effective controls and formalize the necessary technical aspects of regulations to support reliable industry compliance.

For more information on IPPIC its members and affiliated network of associations, please contact the IPPIC Secretariat or visit www.ippic.org

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