

# Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard

Version 2.0, March 2016



[www.lead safepaint.org](http://www.lead safepaint.org)

## Foreword

Lead Paint continues to be manufactured, sold and used in developing countries and countries in transition, even though it has been banned in industrialized countries for decades and cost-effective substitutes for leaded raw materials are easily available. Even in countries where many of the responsible paint manufacturers have reformulated, it is impossible for a customer to distinguish between a paint with high levels of lead and a safe paint. Therefore, IPEN initiated the Lead Safe Paint Certification as an international standard to help consumers, painters, architects, contractors, and other bulk purchasers to choose lead safe paints.

This Lead Safe Certification was developed by IPEN in a multi-stakeholder process involving industry representatives and NGOs, under the Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project. The Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project has been established to eliminate lead in paint and raise widespread awareness among business entrepreneurs and consumers about the adverse human health impacts of lead-based paints, particularly on the health of children. The Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project is being implemented by IPEN over a period of three years in seven countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) with funding from the European Union (EU) totaling €1.4 million. While this program has been developed with the assistance of the EU, its contents are the sole responsibility of IPEN, and no responsibility can be assigned to the EU.

IPEN is an international NGO network of health and environmental organizations from all regions of the world in which organizations from each of the seven countries participate. IPEN is a leading global organization working to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices to protect human health and the environment. Its mission is a toxics-free future for all. IPEN helps build the capacity of its member organizations to implement on-the-ground activities, learn from each other's work, and work at the international level to set priorities and achieve new policies.

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development, while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedom. The EU is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and people beyond its borders.

## I. Objectives

The objectives of this certification standard are as follows:

Objective 1: Promote alternatives to lead paint by providing recognition to paints without added lead and lead compounds.

Objective 2: Provide information to consumers and painters about the lead content of paints to allow them to make informed purchasing decisions and to minimize exposures.

## II. Intended use

The Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard distinguishes paints that have less than 90 parts per million (ppm, dry weight) lead from other products. The Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard is intended to be easily recognizable in order to drive consumer demand, and thereby create an incentive for paint manufacturers to seek certification for their paint products.

## III. Scope

All categories and colors of paint under a brand can be certified under the Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard, provided that all products under that brand meet the lead limit criteria as specified in this document.

## IV. Limitations

The Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard is limited to the lead content of paints and does not address other paint ingredients that may be harmful to the environment or pose a risk to human health.

## V. Definitions

Brand is a trade name or logo or product label design, or a combination of these, employed in marketing a product or a family of products that may include a number of colors or various formulations to cover a range of surface applications for commercially available paints.

Manufacturer is any company that manufactures paint.

Paint is a mixture of resins, pigments, fillers, solvents, and other additives that constitute a finished product including varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or coatings used for any purposes.

Paint categories include all paints sold under a paint brand and include e.g. Enamel paints, Water Emulsions, Distempers, Wood Coatings, and other paints for interior or exterior application.

Certification Body is the organization designated in a particular region or country to administer the Lead Safe Paint certification in that jurisdiction.

## VI. Requirements

Objective 1: Promote alternatives to lead paint by providing recognition to paints without added lead and lead compounds

Criteria 1.1: Paint manufacturer shall stop adding lead and lead compounds to paints.

### Indicators

- 1.1.a. Manufacturer's authorized representative shall sign a written pledge to indicate the company's policy on adding lead to the paint brand for which certification is being sought. The pledge shall be provided on company letterhead and include the language attached in Annex 1.
- 1.1.b. Manufacturer must submit an application for certification and a list of all products and colors marketed under the brand for which they are seeking certification. The manufacturer will then be asked to supply a sample of each product and color for initial testing as defined in the Testing Protocol for the Lead Safe Paint Certification.

Criteria 1.2: Paints available for sale shall contain less than 90 parts per million lead (ppm, dry weight) as verified by chemical analysis by a laboratory fulfilling the requirements in the Testing Protocol for the Lead Safe Paint Certification.

Objective 2: Provide information to consumers and painters about the lead content of paints to allow them to make informed purchasing decisions and to minimize exposures.

Criteria 2.1: The label on the paint products shall indicate the following information:

- A way of identifying the product's manufacture date and place of manufacture, either by marking production date and site, by batch number or by similar means of labeling; and
- the name and address of the manufacturer.

Criteria 2.2: Paint product labels shall provide the following information to warn consumers and painters about the hazards of lead, and the hazards associated with disturbing surfaces painted with lead paint.

- CAUTION: DISTURBING LEAD PAINT CREATES HAZARDOUS DUST THAT IS HARMFUL TO CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN AND WORKERS.

## Annex I

### Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard

#### Pledge of Responsible Paint Manufacturing

We, the undersigned paint manufacturer, agree to uphold the following pledge:

1. We will not intentionally add any lead or lead compounds to any of our paint and coating products that are sold or distributed under the brand name designated below.
2. We will follow quality assurance procedures to ensure that paint and coating ingredients do not contain excessive amounts of lead or lead compounds that may cause our finished paint and coating products sold or distributed under the brand name designated below to exceed the criteria in the Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard.
3. We will not manufacture, sell, distribute, export, or import paint and coating products sold or distributed under the brand name designated below with lead concentration levels that exceed the criteria in the Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Title:

Date:

Lead Safe Paint Certification Standard

Company Name:

List of Brands Included in the Lead Safe Paint Certification:

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