



CANADIAN PAINT  
AND COATINGS  
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DE L'INDUSTRIE DE LA PEINTURE  
ET DU REVÊTEMENT

## CPCA News Release

### Eliminating Lead Paint Through the UN Global Lead Paint Alliance

**October 24, 2018 - Ottawa, Ontario**

October 21-26 is the United Nations International Week of Action on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. For most Canadians lead content in paint hasn't been a cause of concern for over thirty years because there have been regulations in place to ensure control of lead in paint products. Health Canada is mandated, under the Government of Canada's Hazardous Products Act and Regulations, to protect Canadians from potential health hazards in consumer products. The following consumer products are specifically regulated for lead content under the Hazardous Products Act: paints, enamels and other liquid coating materials, decorative coatings on pencils and artists' brushes, liquid coatings on children's furniture and other articles intended for children, toys, equipment and other products for use by a child in learning or play, glazed ceramics and glassware, and kettles. Health Canada has also developed a Lead Risk Reduction Strategy for Consumer Products to protect children from exposure to lead through consumer products.

Canada has one of the strictest lead content limits in the world. In the 1990s CPCA members virtually eliminated lead content in consumer paint and stains sold in Canada through voluntary actions. In fact, when the Hazardous Products Act was enacted CPCA members were already in compliance with the 90mg/kg total lead limit. CPCA also partnered with the federal government in 1992 on a public education campaign on how to remove lead paint from older homes entitled "Old Paint, Lead and Your Family's Health."

Despite the forgoing, it is still a health issue in many other countries, especially for children and vulnerable populations. Product safety is a commitment that extends well beyond national borders, that is why the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA) and its member companies are working globally with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to eliminate lead content in architectural paint and coatings.

While industry and government successfully worked together to restrict the use of lead paint in Canada, the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), of which CPCA is a founding member, is seeking to accomplish similar results globally. A leading advocate for the global elimination of lead paint, IPPIC is a formal contributor to the UN Lead Paint Alliance (LPA, formerly the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint). Established in 2010 the initiative engages national governments, industry and non-governmental organizations to enact restrictions on lead use in paints that pose public health and environmental risks, especially to children.

UNEP reports that only one-third of countries around the globe control the use of lead in paint. In many countries, lead paint is still permitted in homes, schools, hospitals, on toys, and other children's products. Lead poisoning is responsible for approximately 500,000 deaths and 9.3 million disabilities every year. The most common sources of lead poisoning include leaded gasoline, dust and flakes from lead in paint, and contaminated air, water, and soil. According to IPPIC's Global Market Analysis, 95 per cent of the 20 billion litres of decorative paint produced annually does not contain lead. The remaining 5 per cent is produced in countries where lead content remains unregulated.





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This year IPPIC is launching the UN Global Environment Facility project with the goal of establishing legislated lead paint restrictions in 40 countries by 2020. With a focus on Latin America, Africa, and Asia, LPA encourages countries without lead paint legislation to adopt the UN Model Law, which is designed to adapt easily to a country's legal framework. IPPIC and its members like CPCA are working to raise awareness of the widespread need for legislated restrictions on lead content in paints and are committed to its global elimination through the Lead Paint Alliance.

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[Click here for a Backgrounder on IPPIC's support of the WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action.](#)

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## About CPCA

Since 1913, the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA) has represented Canada's major paint and coatings manufacturers, and their industry suppliers and distributors in three primary product categories: architectural paints, industrial products and automotive coatings. In Canada, CPCA members have more than 261 paint manufacturing establishments, own more than 3,000 retail outlets, supply products to another 5,000 retail stores and more than 7,500 auto body shops. This represents annual retail sales of more than \$12.3 billion, employing directly and indirectly 86,300 employees.





# Backgrounder: IPPIC Supports WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action

**October 21, 2018 – Washington, DC**

The International Paint and Printing Ink Council, Inc. (IPPIC) supports the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, Oct. 21-27, 2018. During the campaign week, the United Nations' Lead Paint Alliance (LPA) aims to: raise awareness about health effects of lead poisoning; highlight countries and partners' efforts to prevent particularly childhood lead poisoning; and urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at country level. The LPA (formerly the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint), is an organization established under WHO and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). IPPIC acknowledges all of the proposed activities being advanced by other interested parties during WHO's planned week of action.

IPPIC is an organization whose membership is comprised of trade associations from around the globe representing the paint and printing ink industries. IPPIC member associations have long had an interest in addressing the health, safety and environmental impacts associated with the manufacture and use of paints and printing inks, including the recognition, evaluation and control of hazards arising from the use of lead in paint.

IPPIC actively support the efforts of the UN's (LPA) to engage governments and implement effective and enforceable legislation and regulation. This work is centered in countries not currently restricting lead use in paint, and IPPIC has committed to support industry outreach and education efforts in key regions.

In 2017, IPPIC revised its longstanding policy statement (first published in 2009) to reflect enhanced commitment and support by the global industry for restriction on the use of lead compounds in paint:

"IPPIC notes the long-standing effectiveness of lead-use restrictions that are already in place in many jurisdictions around the world and recommends their widespread adoption by authorities not currently regulating the use of lead in paint and printing ink. To this end, IPPIC supports the UN's Lead Paint Alliance "Model Law," as a useful starting point for both government and industry to collaborate on developing restrictions that ensure widespread and verifiable compliance."

Building on IPPIC's experience with industry workshops in South America in 2016, a new effort is underway to build a curriculum and protocol for more expanded industry outreach. IPPIC has established "regional champion" organizations to take the lead in industry outreach and education efforts, specifically in Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Europe-Middle East. These organizations will engage company-level support to achieve LPA goals established for 2020, to [emphasis added]:

- "prevent children's exposure to paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposure to lead paint,"
- "[secure] the participation of representatives and interested experts from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) including civil society, regional bodies, philanthropic organizations, academia, the media and the private sector."
- "Promote the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to stop the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints"



Working with fellow LPA partners, 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. Notably, IPPIC is a recognized Non-governmental Organization (NGO) that has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

For more information on the Lead Paint Alliance please see visit the IPPIC website. <https://ippic.org/advocacy-policy/#lead-paint-alliance>

## About IPPIC

IPPIC is comprised of members representing associations from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States. The Secretariat position is currently served by the American Coatings Association.

IPPIC provides a forum for information exchange and cooperation on the major issues and priorities facing the paint and printing ink industries worldwide. For information about IPPIC and the activities it is involved in on behalf of the global paint and coatings industry, go to [www.ippic.org](http://www.ippic.org).

## Secretariat

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