



PRESS RELEASE

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World Coatings Council Supports WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action

October 25, 2021 – Washington, DC – The World Coatings Council (WCC) supports the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, Oct. 25 - 31, 2021. During the campaign week, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (the Lead Paint Alliance or LPA), led by the United Nations' Environment Program (UNEP) and the WHO, 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 the country level. WCC applauds all the proposed activities being advanced by other interested parties during WHO's planned week of action.

WCC is an organization whose membership is comprised of trade associations from around the globe representing the coatings, paint, and printing ink industries. WCC 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. And the WCC has participated in workshops around the globe to educate industry on the LPA goals.

WCC actively supports the efforts of the 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 WCC has committed to support industry outreach and education efforts in key regions.

The WCC continues to promote its longstanding policy statement (first published in 2009 under its predecessor organization the International Paint and Printing Ink Council or IPPIC) that reflects 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."

With its fellow LPA partners, WCC will work to establish effective controls and formalize the necessary technical aspects of regulations to support reliable industry compliance. Notably, WCC is a recognized Non-governmental Organization (NGO) that has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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

WCC 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 WCC and the activities it is involved in on behalf of the global paint and coatings industry, go to www.worldcoatingscouncil.org.

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