

“Approach for Estimating Exposures and Incremental Health Effects due to Lead During Renovation, Repair and Painting Activities in Public and Commercial Buildings”

Questions and Answers

Q. What is this document?

A. The document released on August 6, 2014, entitled the “Approach for Estimating Exposures and Incremental Health Effects due to Lead During Renovation, Repair and Painting Activities in Public and Commercial Buildings” (or Approach) describes in detail the methods and approach EPA is considering to estimate potential environmental concentrations, lead body burdens, and incremental health effects related to exposure to lead from renovations in public and commercial buildings.

Q. How will this document help EPA determine whether RRP activities in public and commercial buildings create hazards?

A. The Approach will help EPA identify incremental changes in blood lead level and associated adverse health effects that may occur from a wide variety of modeled renovation scenarios. This information will be part of the basis for EPA’s identification of whether lead-based paint hazards exist from renovation activities in public and commercial buildings.

Q. Does this document present EPA’s hazard finding for renovation activities in public and commercial buildings?

A. No. The Approach is a draft methodology released for the purpose of public comment and for peer review. The Approach will be used for EPA’s assessment of the potential range of health effects that could result from public and commercial building renovations, including what types of renovation scenarios should be considered. The results presented in the Approach will be used in combination with other additional information to inform EPA in determining whether or not hazards are created from the renovation of public and commercial buildings.

Q. Why is EPA seeking comment on the Approach?

A. EPA is seeking public comment on this scientific approach document and the peer review charge because it is considered an influential scientific product under EPA’s Peer Review Guidance. An influential product is one that represents new approaches/applications of methods that have not been previously peer reviewed that are anticipated to have significant impact on decision-making. The public comments will be available to peer reviewers to inform their review.

Q. If EPA determines that hazards are created, what is the timeframe for taking action to address the concern?

A. If EPA determines that hazards are created and publishes a proposed rule in the Federal Register, then EPA agrees to take final action on or before the date 18 months after the proposed rule has published.

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Q. How long will the public have to respond?

A. The August 6, 2014 Federal Register Notice opens a docket for accepting public comments for 45 days. However, additional opportunities for public input will be provided as part of the peer review process.

Q. When does EPA anticipate conducting peer review of the Approach document?

A. EPA anticipates concluding the peer review by the end of 2014. A peer review panel meeting is expected to occur in the fall and the peer review report is expected a few months later.