



Government
of Canada

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Regulating Lead in Surface Coating Materials in Canada

Prepared by Health Canada's
Consumer Product Safety Directorate
For the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint Event
Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC
October 29, 2015



Canada 



Lead in Paint in Canada

- Pre-1960's: Lead added to consumer paints in significant amounts (10-50%) as a pigment or to speed up drying, resist corrosion or increase durability
- Growing scientific information on effects of lead exposure in children
 - consumer paints were a key source of lead



1976: Canada's Initial Response

1976 Liquid Coating Materials Regulations:

- **5,000 mg/kg** (0.5%) total lead limit for interior consumer paints





Late 1980's: Emerging Hazards

- Lead-poisoning cases seen in Canadian children from exposure to lead-based paint chips and dust in homes undergoing renovations

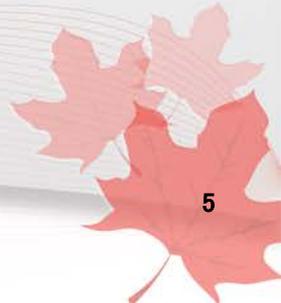




1991: New Voluntary Measures

1991 voluntary reduction by the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA):

- **600 mg/kg** (0.06%) total lead limit for interior and exterior consumer paints
- CPCA represents Canada's major paints and coatings manufacturers





2010: Lead Limit Reductions

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- Surface Coating Materials Regulations further reduce limits to **90 mg/kg** (0.009%) total lead limit for interior and exterior consumer paints, with exceptions (precautionary labelling)
 - aligns with the new, lower total lead limit for consumer paints in the United States under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, 2008
 - simplifies trade and further improves consumer protection

Exceptions to Lead Limit

- The lead limit may be exceeded in the following surface coating materials, provided they have a warning label:
 - **Agricultural purposes:** anti-corrosive or anti-weathering coating for use on the surface of agricultural buildings , structures or equipment
 - **Art:**
 - coatings used in the production of outdoor graphic art, including billboard displays
 - coatings for use in an art, craft or hobby activity, except those coatings for use by children
 - **Touch-up coating** for use on metal





Compliance and Enforcement

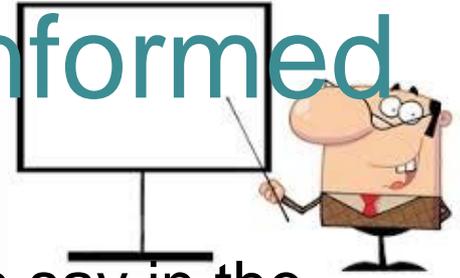
- Health Canada regularly carries out sampling and testing of surface coating materials to determine compliance with the requirements.



- Regular monitoring improves compliance

- Recalls and enforcement summary reports posted at canada.gc.ca/health

Keeping Stakeholders Informed



- Industry is more likely to comply if it has a say in the development of legislation and is kept informed of its obligations under the legislation.
- Involved in the regulatory development process:
 - Pre-consultations
 - Draft Regulations are published in Canada Gazette, Part I, for public comment (30, 60 or 75 days)
 - Final Regulations are published in Canada Gazette, Part II
- Information is provided:
 - on Health Canada's website <http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps>
 - by Regional Product Safety Inspectors located across Canada



For Additional Information

For further information on Health Canada initiatives, please contact:

CPS.International@hc-sc.gc.ca

