
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION



Office of Compliance

Ban¹ of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint

16 C.F.R. 1303

Where can I get a copy of the requirements for lead-based paint?

These requirements are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) in Title 16, Part 1303. Copies are available from the Commission's Web Site at: <http://www.cpsc.gov>. For more information on the requirements, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance, Washington, D.C. 20207, telephone: (301) 504-7913, e-mail: sect15@cpsc.gov.

What is the purpose of the ban on paint that contains lead?

This regulation prevents children from being poisoned when they eat paint chips or dust from paint chips containing lead, or lick their fingers after they play with or touch certain products that are coated with paint that contains lead. Lead poisoning in children is associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, and growth retardation.

Which products must meet this regulation?

The ban covers paint or any other similar surface coating that contains more than 0.009% lead (lead-containing paint). It also covers toys or other articles intended for use by children and furniture coated with lead-containing paint. Pieces of furniture such as beds, bookcases, chairs, chests, tables, dressers, and console televisions are covered by the regulation. Appliances such as ranges, refrigerators, and washers, fixtures such as built-in cabinets, window, and doors, and household products such as window shades and venetian blinds are not.

While paints for boats and cars are not covered by the ban, products sold directly to consumers or which consumers use in homes, schools, hospitals, parks, playgrounds, and other areas are. Therefore, products intended for use by children and furniture located in these types of places may not have more than 0.009%

lead when children or consumers will have direct access to the painted surface.



What is a paint or similar-surface coating material?

These terms apply generally to liquid or semi-liquid products that change to a solid film when you apply a thin coating to wood, stone, metal, cloth, plastic or a similar surface. Printing inks, materials such as pigments for plastic that become part of an article itself, and materials such as ceramic glaze which become bonded to the surface of a product are not paints or similar surface coating materials.

Are any products exempt from the lead-containing paint requirements?

Yes. The following products are exempt as long as they have specific warnings on their labels that they contain lead: coatings used to refinish industrial or agricultural equipment; building and equipment maintenance coatings; products marketed solely for use on billboards, road signs, and similar products; touch-up coatings for agricultural equipment, lawn and garden equipment, and appliances; and catalyzed coatings marketed solely for use on radio-controlled model powered airplanes. Please refer to the regulation for the specific label statements required and the location where those statements must appear on product labels.

Mirrors with lead-containing backing paint, artists paints, and metal furniture (other than children's furniture) that has a factory-applied coating that contains lead are exempt from the regulation and require no labeling.

¹ This document is a simple description of the requirements relating to the ban on paint containing lead and does not replace or supersede any requirements published in 16 C.F.R. 1303