



## VERIFICATION OF DOUBLE STANDARD OF LEAD IN PAINTS ACROSS PROVINCES OF NEPAL, 2022



**BACKGROUND:** Responding to the Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)'s research-based advocacy campaign to eliminate lead paints, the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) enacted the mandatory standards of lead in paint on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 that took effect on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015. These lead paint standards have three important provisions: (a) Limiting maximum lead content in all imported and produced paints to 90ppm (b) Label paint cans with the exact lead content and (c) protective precautionary message to prevent occupational exposure

CEPHED with the support of WHO accomplished compliance monitoring of lead paints standards in Nepal in 2021. Overall results of the compliance monitoring were not very encouraging as only 52 % (32 of 62) of the paint samples were found to be compliant with the maximum 90ppm lead limits. Rests 48% (30 of 62) were non-compliant with the standards lead limits.

Additionally, some of the Multinational Paints Companies (MNCs) samples were suspected of adopting DOUBLE STANDARD products in terms of lead Contents being sold in different provinces of Nepal, i.e. same paints samples collected from one Province contained lead more than standards limits, whereas samples collected from others provinces have got non-detectable (ND) or less than the standard limits of 90 ppm.

Therefore, it has been aimed to verify the issues of double standards by conducting the study of "DOUBLE STANDARD" with the support of IPEN as a part of celebrating International Lead Paints Poisoning Week (ILPPW) 2022 and sharing the results during the week.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To verify the adoption of **DOUBLE STANDARDS** in terms of lead content by MNCs across different provinces of Nepal.
2. Share the report and findings during the ILPPW week 2022.

### METHODOLOGY

**Sample:** 8 Solvent based Enamel Paints from 2 Multi-National Companies (Asian Paints and Berger Paints)

**Provinces:** 2 paints samples were collected from four provinces (Province No. 1, Madhesh Province Bagmati, and Lumbini)

**Colour:** Golden Yellow colour of Asian Paints and Red colour of Berger Paints were collected from 4 provinces

**Manufacture Year:** 2017 to 2022, All after the effective date of Lead Paint Standards

**Sample log:** prepared by noting all the details

**Total lead test:** by AAS Method at NESS Pvt. Ltd.

International  
Lead  
Poisoning  
Prevention  
Week



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Eliminate  
Lead Paint

23-29  
October  
2022



**RESULT:** Samples were collected, log prepared, and tested for total lead using AAS, and results were found to be very encouraging thus helping us to verify the non-adoption of DOUBLE STANDARD by the paints companies especially large Multinationals like Asian, Berger, and KNP Japan ones.

**Table 1: Lead concentration in paints (2021)**

Compliance Monitoring in 2021 with WHO Support				Remarks
Brands	Gandaki Province	Sudur Paschim Provinces	Madhesh Province	These MNCs were suspected to be adopting of <b>DOUBLE STANDARD</b> of their product regarding lead content across the provinces aims to be verified.
Asian Paints	23.45	ND	110.87	
Berger Paints	56.47	15.83	469.57	

**Table 2. Lead Concentration in Paints (2022)**

Compliance Monitoring of Lead Paint Standard in 2022 with IPEN Support				
Brands	Provinces 1	Madhesh Province	Bagmati Province	Lumbini Province
Asian Paints (Golden Yellow)	ND	ND	12.04	ND
Berger (PO Red)	ND	ND	6.04	ND



**CONCLUSION:** It has been verified that non-adoption of the DOUBLE STANDARD by Multinational Paints Companies across the different processes in Nepal as well as comply with the maximum lead limit of 90 ppm. But non comply with the other two labeling provision of exact lead content and precautionary messaging on each paint cans even after 7 years of passed since lead paint standard took effect in Nepal.



**RECOMMENDATION:** (a). Government agencies (MOFE, DoEnvnt, and Provincial Government) should do regular market and industry monitoring, (b) the Government of Nepal (MOHP) should adopt the national BLL Screening Policy and must develop the required infrastructures to test BLL (c) Public awareness (d) Paints Industries should comply with and adhere to the lead paint standards (e) Consumers should always look for labeling ask for lead-free and/or no added lead paints, etc.

