

1.8 LEAD IN SOIL AND DUST WORKING GROUP

APPENDIX 1.8

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS LEAD IN SOIL AND DUST

1.8 LEAD IN SOIL AND DUST WORKING GROUP

- Rec 1** The Taskforce ensure that a watching brief for worlds best practice be maintained for the environmental management of lead.
- Rec 2** A preliminary self assessment questionnaire be developed as part of the community education material.
- Rec 3** Health risk assessment be coordinated between the different Working Groups and that an appropriate questionnaire be developed for use when undertaking blood lead tests.
- Rec 4** Comprehensive education campaigns be developed for important target groups such as local council officers, health-care providers, parents, property owners, day-care providers, and early childhood educators, in consultation and coordination with National, State and Local Governments, and the community.
- Rec 5**
- a) the uppermost 20 mm soil sample be taken for health risk assessment purposes, and the uppermost 50 mm soil sample for site assessment purposes.
 - b) during sample preparation sub-samples representing the less than 2 millimetre and less than 150 micrometre particles should be prepared for lead determination.
 - c) the above recommendations 5a and 5b be forwarded to Standards Australia for consideration by the Committee CH/28 Analysis of Soils and Biota.
 - d) the sampling program design, sampling techniques, sample preparation and sample analysis procedures once drafted by Standards Australia CH/28 be assessed by the Lead Taskforce, and if appropriate, be adopted as part of the lead strategy.
- Rec 6**
- a) research should be directed to provide a standardised method of house dust collection, sample preparation and sample analysis.
 - b) research should be directed to test domestic and industrial filters on vacuum cleaners and other appliances for their ability to filter fine dust particles of less than 5 micrometres in size.
 - c) techniques for cleaning lead containing dust from all exterior and interior household surfaces and objects should be evaluated, consistent with ecologically best practices.
- Rec 7** Research should be directed to provide a standardised method of assessment of bioavailability of lead from soil and dust.
- Rec 8**
- a) a program be directed to collect all available data to identify areas of risk and lead

- contaminated sites.
- b) the information gained from 8a be coupled with results of available blood lead testing and related surveys to create the most accurate picture of community lead hazards including sources, exposure patterns and high risk populations.
 - c) the information gained from 8b form the basis of a primary prevention plan which should include education, infrastructure development and hazard abatement.

Rec 9 The Government provide regulations and/or guidelines on the abatement and safe removal of lead, and the training, certifying and monitoring of lead abatement contractors and assessors.

Rec 10 Further research be conducted into disposal options for highly contaminated soils, dusts and sludges.

Rec 11 A review be conducted to assess the use, effectiveness and need for revision of the Department of Planning's Circular C-20, the stages in the planning process at which lead contamination issues should be considered, and Council s.149 certificates - notices of encumbrances.

Rec 12 The roles of Federal, State and Local Government in the lead strategy be clearly identified and appropriately resourced to undertake those roles.

Rec 13 The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), possibly through the Taskforce, needs to address prevention strategies in a comprehensive manner consistent with ecologically sustainable development.

Rec 14 Funding be provided to establish a dedicated lead program which incorporates all aspects of lead health problems and lead in the environment including responsibility for coordination of issues related to health, education, monitoring, research and abatement. The program should report annually to Parliament and be reviewed after 5 years.

Rec 15 Financial and other liabilities in respect of contaminated site remediation need to be addressed and that the Lead Taskforce refer the matter for resolution to the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC).

Rec 16 The Taskforce's final report contain a glossary of terms and/or definitions to ensure a common understanding of the issues. For example, the meanings of remediation and abatement.