

July 13, 2010

Dear Building and Permitting Colleagues,

This is a special reminder that the new EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting rule is now in effect. All contractors performing renovation, repair or painting projects that disturb more than six square feet of lead-based paint in homes, child-occupied facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead poisoning. Those who are not certified and using lead-safe work practices could face tens of thousands of dollars in fines per violation, per day and potential lawsuits.

We know that contractors rely on local authorities to help ensure they understand and comply with industry regulations; therefore, we expect even more contractors will be visiting your offices looking for information on this rule. That is why we are asking you to help us spread the word and get these facts out.

- The new rule covers pre-1978 homes, apartments, schools, day care centers and other child-occupied facilities.
- Over one million children are now affected by lead paint poisoning. It causes irreversible damage including behavioral issues and lowered IQ's. It can also affect adults.
- Research shows that dust spread during renovations is a key cause of many of these poisonings.

Please visit our website <http://www.epa.gov/getleadsafe> to find everything from print ads to flyers and bill stuffers that you can download, print and get into the hands of contractors eager to learn more about this important rule. We have heard of several methods cities and counties have adopted to help build awareness of the new rule from posting notices in the permitting office to stamping permits with a lead-safe information statement or requiring certification before issuing permits for renovations in pre-1978 buildings.

If you have questions or would like to discuss additional outreach and education ideas, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. We are also interested in hearing about any programs you have already put in place.

Thank you for helping us protect kids and educate this important community.

Regards,

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