

Communiqué

Green Lead Workshop

London

28th to 30th April 2004

A workshop, initiated by the global lead industry to advance thinking on a mechanism for assuring the safe use of lead in the manufacture and use of the lead acid battery has been successfully concluded.

The meeting, co-chaired by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), was attended by a broad range of interests in lead and its uses. These included lead miners, smelters, recyclers, environment NGOs, environment auditors, government and non-government bodies with a focus on lead. (A full list of attendees is attached).

Because of the toxic characteristics of lead, the Lead Industry could be faced with a significant constriction of its future markets if it fails to satisfy regulators and communities that its products will be dealt with in ways offering the highest level of safety.

Legislation banning various lead products in different countries continues to expand, particularly within Europe. For example, Denmark has a ban on lead compounds, except in x-ray shielding and batteries.

To address this trend, Green Lead is being created as a Product Stewardship initiative of the *Lead industry*.

Green LeadTM is the vision of mining, processing, transporting, treating, manufacturing, storing, using and recycling lead – with zero harm from lead exposure to people and the environment.

Green Lead involves the identification of impacts associated with lead, the establishment of standards to manage those impacts and certification of organisations and eventually lead products that achieve these standards. It will focus initially on lead used in batteries.

Objectives of the Workshop

The Green Lead Workshop was a high level meeting of stakeholders with interests in the environmental and health impacts of lead in the battery life cycle; in production use and re use of batteries; in product stewardship and environmental certification.

The aims of the Workshop were:

1. To achieve a shared vision of Green Lead and widespread support for the concept.
2. To agree to a program of to fully develop the methodology, structure and standard for Green Lead. This is likely to involve a series of key stages.
3. To agree a management mechanism for the development phase of Green Lead.
4. To agree to funding the development of Green Lead in stages and a mechanism for managing funds.
5. To identify at least one company in the mining, smelting, battery manufacturing and battery recycling sectors, willing to participate in pilot audits as part of the development phase.

There was no intention to seek an immediate commitment to Green Lead certification, to a standard, a governance mechanism or to funding beyond the development phase.

The Workshop examined issues including:

- The bounds of the concept;
- The lessons to be drawn from the European Voluntary Lead Risk Assessment and other prior work;
- Defining a Green Lead Standard, based on good science and best practice;
- Establishing and governing a Green Lead certification scheme;
- Issues for Producers in developing countries; and

- A proposed Green Lead work program and budget and how to resource it.

Papers, prepared for the Workshop on each of these (and other issues), are posted on the website www.greenlead.com

At the conclusion of the Workshop, agreement was reached on the following:

A work program to engage additional stakeholders unable to attend the workshop, in particular, battery manufacturers, car makers, and consumer and environment NGOs; to better develop the business case for involvement by each sector in the lead battery cycle; to develop a revised work program for the development phase of Green Lead; to convene a further two day workshop in Europe in early October 2004 to review progress and to agree the steps to follow.

Funds for this phase are to be provided by companies and organisations with an interest in Green Lead and administered by the Lead Zinc Study Group, a body comprising both governments and industry involved in lead production.

Additionally, a Project Steering Committee was established to oversee the ongoing work program, which is to include ICMM, ILZSG, UNEP, the Lead Development Association International, WWF, and several producer companies.

It was also agreed to establish immediately, two multi-stakeholder working groups to further work on designing a Green Lead standard and to develop thinking on certification and accreditation of Green Lead.