

10.4 LEAD-BASED PAINT REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Regulation Background

Lead-based paint requirements were originally written to implement Section 302 of the Lead-based Paint Poisoning and Prevention Act. In the late 1970s, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 24, Part 35 was promulgated, setting forth the general procedures for inspection and treatment of defective paint surfaces in HUD assisted housing.

Under Part 35, Assistant Secretaries were given authority to develop regulations pertaining to their specific areas of responsibility, and varying program regulations were issued. The regulations have been amended several times. A major change that occurred in 1995 amended housing quality standards that applied to tenant-based programs.

New lead-based paint regulations effective September 15, 2000 have been implemented to incorporate Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992. These regulations consolidate all lead-based paint requirements under one section of the Code of Federal Regulations (24 CFR Part 35), stress identification of lead-paint hazards, notification to occupants of the existence of these hazards, and control of lead-based paint hazards to reduce lead poisoning among young children.

Housing choice voucher program units are subject to the following subparts of 24 CFR Part 35:

- Subpart A, Disclosure;
- Subpart B, General Lead-Based Paint Requirements and Definitions for All Programs;
- Subpart M, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance; and
- Subpart R, Methods and Standards for Performing Lead Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Activities.

The Section 8 moderate rehabilitation program and the project-based housing choice voucher or certificate program units are subject to requirements under 24 CFR Subparts A, B, H, and R.

Those requirements are not discussed in this Guidebook.

Exempt Units

Exempt housing includes:

- Units built after December 31, 1977;
- Zero (0) bedroom and SRO units;
- Housing built for the elderly or persons with disabilities, unless a child of under age six (6) resides or is expected to reside in such housing;
- Property for which a paint inspection was completed in accordance with the new regulations and certified to have no lead-based paint;
- Property in which all lead-based paint was identified, was removed, and received clearance in accordance with the new regulations.

For dwellings built before January 1, 1978, *and* occupied or to be occupied by assisted families with one or more children under age six, lead-based paint requirements apply to:

- The unit interior and exterior paint surfaces associated with the assisted unit; and
- The common areas servicing the unit, including those areas through which residents must pass to gain access to the unit, and other areas frequented by resident children less than six such as play areas, and child care facilities. Common areas also include garages and fences on the assisted property.

Basic Lead-Based Paint Requirements

The PHA is the responsible party for the following activities:

- Visual assessment for deteriorated paint (i.e., peeling, chipping, flaking) surfaces at initial and annual inspections;
- Assuring that clearance examination is conducted when required;
- Carrying out special requirements for children under age six who have environmental intervention blood lead levels as verified by a medical health care provider;
- Collecting data from the local health department on program participants under age six who have identified environmental intervention blood lead levels; and
- Record keeping.

Unit owners have responsibilities to:

- Disclose known lead-based paint hazards to all potential residents prior to execution of a lease;
- The owner must also provide all prospective families with a copy of *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home* or other EPA approved document;
- When necessary, perform paint stabilization to correct deteriorated paint;
- Each time such an activity is performed, notify tenants about the conduct of lead hazard reduction activities and clearance (if required);
- Conduct lead hazard reduction activities when required by the PHA;
- Perform all work in accordance with HUD prescribed safe work practices and conduct clearance activities when required; and
- Perform ongoing maintenance. As part of ongoing maintenance, the owner must provide written notice to each assisted family asking occupants to report deteriorated paint. The notice must include the name, address, and phone number of the person responsible for accepting the occupant's complaint.

10.5 NOTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE OF LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS PRIOR TO OCCUPANCY

Before the execution of the lease the owner or owner's agent is required to disclose any knowledge of lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards in housing built prior to 1978, to all prospective residents (See Exhibit 10-1, *Sample Disclosure Notice*.) The PHA must keep a copy of the disclosure notice executed by the owner and tenant in the tenant file. The owner should not send the PHA the original disclosure notice executed by the owner and tenant.

Visual Assessment for Deteriorated Paint

During the conduct of initial and annual inspections of pre-1978 units that are occupied or will be occupied by families with children under 6 years of age, the PHA must conduct a visual inspection for deteriorated paint surfaces at these locations:

- All unit interior and exterior painted surfaces associated with the assisted unit; and
- Common areas such as common hallways, access and egress areas, playgrounds, child-care facilities, or other areas including fences and garages frequented by children under age six.

Deteriorated paint surfaces are defined as interior or exterior paint or other coating that is peeling, chipping, flaking, cracking, is otherwise damaged or has separated from the substrate of the surface or fixture.

The inspection may be conducted by an HQS inspector or other party designated by the PHA, but all inspectors must be trained in visual assessment in accordance with procedures established by HUD. A visual assessment training course is available on the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control's website.

Stabilization of Deteriorated Paint Surfaces

When the visual inspector identifies deteriorated paint surfaces, the PHA must notify and require the owner to perform stabilization of the surfaces within thirty (30) days of notification in occupied units and before commencement of an assisted tenancy. When weather conditions prevent stabilization of deteriorated paint surfaces on exterior surfaces within 30-day period, stabilization may be delayed for a reasonable time.

Owner requirements for compliance with a PHA's paint stabilization notice differ, depending upon the amount of deteriorated paint surface to be corrected. The use of lead-safe work practices during paint stabilization activities are characterized as above or below de minimis levels. De minimis deteriorated paint surfaces are as follows:

- **20 square feet on exterior surfaces;**
- **2 square feet on an interior surface in a single room or interior space; or**
- **10 percent of individual small components (e.g., window skills) on the interior or exterior.**

Owners must perform paint stabilization on all deteriorated paint surfaces *regardless of the size of the deteriorated surface*.

Paint stabilization is defined as:

- Repair of any physical defect in the substrate of the painted surface or building component. Examples of defective substrate conditions include dry-rot, rust, moisture-related defects, crumbling plaster, missing siding, or other components not securely fastened;
- Removal of all loose paint and other loose material from the surface being treated; and
- Application of a new protective coat of paint to the stabilized surface.

If the amount of deteriorated paint is below the de minimis level, the owner must perform paint stabilization. Owners are not required to perform lead-safe work practices and clearance.

Correction of deteriorated paint above de minimis levels requires owners to perform additional activities to gain compliance with HUD lead-based paint requirements, including:

- Conducting the stabilization activities with trained staff;
- Employing acceptable methods for preparing the surface to be treated, including wet scraping, wet sanding, and power sanding performed in conjunction with a HEPA filtered local exhaust attachment operated according to manufacturer's instruction;
- Dry sanding and dry scraping is not permitted except within one (1) square foot of electrical outlets.
- Protecting the occupants and their belongings from contamination;
- Notifying the occupants within fifteen (15) calendar days of the stabilization activity and providing the results of the clearance examination (See Exhibit 10-3, *Summary Notice of Completion of Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Activity*); and
- HUD has provided funds to PHAs to cover the cost of the first clearance examination. The owner covers funds for the cost of subsequent tests.
- The PHA is responsible for clearance activities. Clearance examinations must be performed by persons who have EPA or state-approved training and are licensed or certified to perform clearance examinations.

In no instance may an owner employ any paint stabilization methods that are strictly prohibited by federal, state, or local law such as:

- Open flame burning and torching;
- Machine-sanding or grinding without a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) local exhaust control;
- Heat guns operating above 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit;
- Abrasive blasting or sandblasting without HEPA exhaust control;
- Dry sanding and scraping except limited conditions stated above for limited areas; and
- Paint stripping in poorly ventilated space using a volatile stripper or a hazardous chemical as defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Failure to comply with paint stabilization requirements, regardless of the amount of deteriorated surface, results in disapproval of the tenancy, abatement of payment to the owner, and/or termination of the HAP contract. The HQS violation for paint stabilization is considered closed when the PHA receives an executed copy of the Lead Based Paint Owner's Certification. (See Exhibit 10-2, *Sample Certification*.)

Requirements for Children with Environmental Intervention Blood Lead Level

HUD has defined environmental intervention blood lead level as a confirmed concentration of lead in whole blood equal or greater than 20 ug/dL (micrograms of lead per deciliter) for a single test or 15-19 ug/dL in two tests taken at least three (3) months apart in children under age six.

Notification

A medical health care provider, public health department, the family, owner, or outside source may notify the PHA of an environmental intervention blood lead level child living in a program unit.

When information regarding an environmental intervention blood lead level child under age six is received from the family, owner, or other sources not associated with the medical health community, the PHA must immediately verify the information with a public health department or other medical health care provider.

If either the public health department or a private medical health agency provides verification that the child has an environmental intervention blood lead level, the PHA must proceed to complete a risk assessment of the unit, common areas and exterior surfaces. This requirement does not apply if the public health department has already conducted an evaluation between the date the child's blood was last sampled and the receipt of notification of the child's condition.

When a PHA receives a report of an environmental intervention blood lead level child from any source other than the public health department, the PHA must notify the health department within five (5) working days.

Risk Assessment

Within 15 days of notification by a public health department or medical health care provider, the PHA must complete a risk assessment of the dwelling unit, including common areas servicing

the dwelling unit, if the child lived in the unit at the time the child's blood was sampled. In most areas of the country, the local health department will complete the risk assessment free of charge to the PHA. In areas where this is not possible, the PHA must hire and pay for a certified risk assessor and, upon completion of the risk assessment, the PHA must provide the report to the owner.

Persons trained and certified by an EPA or state-approved agency must complete risk assessments.

Risk assessments involve on-site investigations to determine the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards. The investigation includes dust and soil sampling, and visual evaluation, and may include paint inspections (tests for lead in paint). The assessor issues a report explaining the results of the investigation, as well as options and requirements for reducing lead-based paint hazards.

The owner must notify the building residents of the results of the risk assessment within 15 days of receipt from the PHA. (See Exhibit 10-4, *Summary Notice of Lead-Based Paint Risk Assessment*.)

Hazard Reduction

The owner must complete reduction of identified lead-based paint hazards as identified in the risk assessment within 30 days (or date specified by PHA if an extension is granted for exterior surfaces).

Hazard reduction activities may include paint stabilization, abatement, interim controls, or dust and soil contamination control. The appropriate method of correction should be identified in the risk assessment.

Hazard reduction is considered complete when a clearance examination has been completed and the report indicates that all identified hazards have been treated and clearance has been achieved, or when the public health department certifies that the hazard reduction is complete.

The owner must notify all building residents of any hazard reduction activities within 15 days of completion of activities. (See Exhibit 10-3, *Summary Notice of Completion of Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Activities*.)

Like paint stabilization compliance, PHA receipt of the owner's certification signals compliance with lead hazard reduction activities. (See Exhibit 10-2, *Owner's Certification*.)

Failure to complete hazard reduction activities (including clearance) within 30 days (or later if PHA grants an extension for exterior surfaces) of notification constitutes a violation of HQS, and appropriate action against the owner must be taken if a program family occupies the unit. If the unit is vacant when the PHA notifies the owner, the unit may not be reoccupied by another assisted family, regardless of the ages of children in the family, until compliance with the lead-based paint requirement.

Ongoing Maintenance

In addition to the visual assessment completed by the HQS inspector, the owner is required to conduct a visual assessment for deteriorated paint and failure of any hazard reduction measures at unit turnover and every 12 months of continued occupancy.

The owner is required to make corrections of deteriorated paint and any failed lead hazard reduction measures. Correction methods are the same as those for paint stabilization activities discussed earlier.

The owner must provide written notice to each assisted family asking occupants to report deteriorated paint. The notice must include the name, address, and phone number of the person responsible for accepting the occupant's complaint.

The owner certifies that this requirement is being met by presenting the owner's certification to the PHA before the execution of the lease and at annual inspection. (See Exhibit 10-2, *Owner's Certification*.)

PHA Data Collection and Record Keeping

Quarterly, the PHA must attempt to obtain from the public health department having jurisdiction in the same area as the PHA, the names and addresses of children under age six with an identified environmental intervention blood lead level.

The PHA must match information received from the health department with information about program families. If a match occurs, the PHA must follow all procedures for notifying owners and conducting risk assessments as stated above.

Quarterly, the PHA must report a list of addresses of units occupied by children under age six, receiving assistance to the public health department, unless the health department indicates that such a report is not necessary.

Staff should be thoroughly trained about the requirements for lead-based paint so inspection activities are properly done and questions from owners about processes and requirements can be adequately addressed.

The PHA is responsible to inform owners of lead-based paint regulations especially those related to prohibited and safe work practices, tenant protection during lead-based paint activities, and notification requirements. Many owners do not know about the new regulations and requirements that were effective September 15, 2000. The PHA may wish to include information about these requirements in HQS notices and other mailings to owners. If the PHA routinely conducts owner workshops or owner meetings, lead-based paint is a good topic to place on the agenda.

Risk assessors and public health departments conducting risk assessments involving environmental intervention blood lead level children will issue a report on any needed corrections and appropriate methods to correct lead hazards. The PHA must notify the owner of the deadline for completing the corrections.

To carry out its responsibilities for matching PHA and public health records, PHA staff may need to develop a closer working relationship with staff at the public health department.

PHAs should also develop a tracking report to track known environmental intervention blood lead level children until the child reaches age six. This will assure that all PHA required activities are addressed in a timely manner and that inspections conducted on behalf of the family will include the inspection for deteriorated paint. If the PHA is using a computerized inspection system with hand-held units, information about the child's condition should be entered into the system.

Units that have been certified to be clear of lead paint hazards may be placed on a list and affirmatively marketed to families with children under six.