
Lead Paint Awareness for Renovations

1.0 Objective & Intent

The objective of this SOP is to establish mandatory safety protocols for all personnel involved in renovation activities that may disturb lead-based paint. This procedure aims to prevent lead poisoning and environmental contamination by ensuring proper identification, containment, and disposal of lead-containing materials. Compliance with WorkSafeBC regulations (OHS Regulation Part 6 – Chemical Agents and Biological Agents) is mandatory to mitigate the specific risk of lead exposure during renovations.

2.0 Operational Scope

This procedure applies to all maintenance personnel, carpenters, painters, and contractors performing renovation, demolition, or surface preparation work on structures built before 1990 within the cabinet and millwork manufacturing facility. It covers all areas where lead-based paint may be present, including walls, trim, doors, windows, and built-in cabinetry. All personnel must be trained in lead awareness and follow this SOP before commencing any renovation task.

3.0 Hazard Identification & Mandatory PPE

- Lead dust inhalation: Fine particles generated during sanding, cutting, or demolition can be inhaled, leading to lead poisoning.
- Lead ingestion: Contaminated hands, food, or surfaces can introduce lead into the body.
- Skin contact: Lead compounds can be absorbed through skin, especially if there are cuts or abrasions.
- Environmental contamination: Lead dust can settle on surfaces, equipment, and in ventilation systems, posing ongoing risks.
- CSA-Approved Half-Face Respirator with P100 particulate filters (mandatory for all tasks generating dust)
- Disposable Coveralls (Type 5/6, hooded, with elastic cuffs and ankles)
- Chemical-Resistant Gloves (nitrile or neoprene, at least 8 mil thick)
- Safety Glasses or Goggles (impact-rated, with side shields)
- CSA-Approved Steel Toed Boots (with non-slip soles)

4.0 Required Safety Equipment & Tools

- Lead Paint Test Kit (sodium rhodizonate or similar, with swabs)
- HEPA Vacuum (Class H, with HEPA filter for lead dust)
- Plastic Sheeting (6 mil thick, for containment and drop cloths)
- Duct Tape and Sealing Tape (for securing plastic barriers)
- Wet Wipes or Damp Cloths (for cleaning surfaces and tools)
- Disposable Waste Bags (heavy-duty, labeled for hazardous waste)
- Warning Signs (Lead Hazard – Keep Out, in English and French)
- Portable Air Monitor (for real-time lead dust monitoring, if available)

5.0 Step-by-Step Safety Procedure

1. Notify all affected personnel and supervisors about the renovation area and the potential lead hazard. Post warning signs at all entrances to the work zone.
2. Conduct a lead paint test on a representative sample of the surface using the test kit. Follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly. If the test is positive, proceed with full containment.
3. Establish a containment zone by sealing off the work area with plastic sheeting. Cover all floors, furniture, and equipment within 3 meters of the work area. Seal doors, windows, and HVAC vents with tape and plastic.
4. Don all required PPE before entering the containment zone. Perform a seal check on the respirator. Ensure coveralls are zipped and gloves are worn over the cuffs.
5. Use wet methods to minimize dust generation. Mist surfaces with water before sanding, cutting, or scraping. Use a HEPA vacuum attachment on power tools to capture dust at the source.
6. Perform the renovation task (e.g., sanding, cutting, demolition) using the lowest dust-generating technique possible. Avoid dry sanding or open-flame burning of lead paint.
7. Upon completion, clean all surfaces, tools, and equipment inside the containment zone using a HEPA vacuum followed by wet wiping. Do not dry sweep. Remove plastic sheeting carefully, folding it inward to trap dust.
8. Dispose of all contaminated materials (plastic sheeting, wipes, filters, coveralls) in labeled hazardous waste bags. Seal bags tightly and place in designated lead waste container.
9. Remove PPE in the following order: gloves, coveralls (rolling outward), respirator (last). Wash hands and face thoroughly with soap and water immediately after doffing. Do not eat, drink, or smoke in the work area.
10. Document the work performed, test results, and disposal records. Report any signs of lead exposure (e.g., metallic taste, abdominal pain) to the supervisor immediately. Schedule a follow-up air monitoring test if required.

Regulatory Disclaimer: This document is a generic safety template provided for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute professional engineering, legal, or regulatory compliance advice. The end-user assumes all liability for validating all safety protocols against specific machinery manufacturer manuals and local occupational health and safety regulations (e.g., WorkSafeBC, CSA standards) before deployment.