

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals, dairy products, paints, fertilizers & fossil fuel

**Michael Musenga
(IFCS Standing Committee Member)**

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals

Zambia is trying to reduce heavy metal exposure in:

- ✓ Dairy products
- ✓ Paints
- ✓ Fertilizers
- ✓ Fossil Fuel

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals

Paints, :

Through Zambia Bureau of Standards:

- ✓ Standards specify that heavy metals containing raw materials should not be used in manufacture of paints.

Fertilizer

- ✓ Standards to specify the acceptable heavy metal content

Fossil Fuel (Petrol):

- ✓ The standard for Leaded Petrol has been withdrawn
- ✓ Lead Petrol banned on Zambian market (ERB)

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals (Contd)

In the dairy sector, some of the ways this is being done is through:

- ✓ Development of national standards that ensure minimal exposure to heavy metals - minimum acceptable heavy metals levels have been specified in the standards.
- ✓ Regulations are issued by various authorities to reduce heavy metal exposure in dairy products

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals (Contd)

At regional level, Zambia is harmonizing among other standards, Dairy standards with COMESA member states to contribute to facilitation of trade among member countries

- ✓ However, safety with respect to heavy metals content is of concern.
- ✓ Needed regionally accepted heavy metal levels in these products if trade has to be promoted.

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals (Contd)

- ✓ Hence harmonization of standards with COMESA member states – minimum heavy metal level specified in the harmonised standards.
- ✓ Harmonisation process involved all players along the chain so as to put all interest on board.
- ✓ Maximum acceptable heavy metal level established by Codex Alimentarius have been accepted

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals (Contd)

✓ To ensure consistence in the analysis for heavy metals. Zambia and COMESA member states agreed to use internationally accepted method for analysis.

Implementation of harmonised Standards

✓ Zambia and other member states urged to adopt harmonised standards at national level.

✓ In addition, harmonised standards once endorsed can be issued as directives

✓ Then, directives replace the existing regulations

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals (Contd)

Challenges for Zambia;

- ✓ standards enforcement structures not well coordinated
- ✓ Inadequate capacity of concerned bodies to enforce the standards
- ✓ Inadequate testing facilities for heavy metals

Zambia Action to Minimize Heavy Metals (Contd)

Way forward:

- ✓ Development of an inventory of heavy metal presence or release in the country both locally and through imports
- ✓ identification of population at risk, communication/outreach to populations at risk
- ✓ devise other approaches to reduce heavy metal health risks.
- ✓ increase capacity to carry out test for heavy metals
- ✓ Increase capacity to enforce the standards
- ✓ Coordinated approach between authorities to enforcement standards

Challenges to effectively control lead and cadmium contamination via international trade in Zambia

- ✓ Imports of unlabeled shipments of goods.
 - Including, e.g., food donations, fertilizers, toys and waste
- ✓ Lack of chemicals management capacity
 - Support to build monitoring and enforcement capacity
- ✓ Inadequate knowledge and awareness
 - Local authorities and customs officers prepared to implement the Act
 - Consumers' rights
 - Testing measures, e.g. laboratory equipment and professional training
- ✓ Develop monitoring tools to measure effectiveness of the Act:
 - Inventory of heavy metal presence or release in the country and via imports
 - Bio-monitoring tools to assess risk, especially for vulnerable populations

LET US MAKE AFRICA CLEAN AND HEALTHY:

A task for all States and
stakeholders working together

One example in Zambia of the success
international action is the phase out of leaded
petrol with the support of UNEP's Global
Partnership Programme.

Thank You

Contact information

Dingiswayo Shawa

Standards Officer

Zambia Bureau of Standards

P.O Box 50259

Lusaka, Zambia

Tel: +26021 1231385

Mobile: +260 955 808 083

E-mail: dingiswayo@zabs.org.zm

dngswyo@yahoo.com

Michael Musenga

Environmental Health Officer and Public Prosecutor for Environmental Health

Monze District Council

Environmental Unit

P.O Box 660149

Monze, Zambia

Mobile: +260 977 436 314

E-mail: mmusenga@yahoo.com