

# Anti-lead initiative

The National Department of Health is continuing its campaign to remove hazardous lead-based paints from South African suppliers, says South African Paint Manufacturing Association Executive Director, Deryck Spence.

Professor Angela Mathee, Director of the Medical Research Council's Environment and Health Research Unit, has

advised the Association samples are being collected from suppliers for lead analysis content.

The Department of Health and the Medical Research Council learned from SAPMA that some paint manufacturers and major retail outlets were still not complying with government lead levels legislation despite the banning of leaded paint manufacture and sale.

Those who fail to comply will be prosecuted says the Department's Deputy Director General, Professor Nicky Padayachee. He added that lead poisoning could result

in low IQ, poor performance, hyperactivity, and learning difficulties.

Spence said the Association hoped that the decisive anti-lead initiative from the government would convince retailers, including some major building suppliers that their operations were not immune from responsibility and above the law.

"These suppliers should realise that transgressions discovered by the government's new initiative will no doubt be widely publicised and the subsequent consumer resistance could ruin reputations and businesses." ■

