

Bill Proposal: The Lead-Free Military Surfaces Act

Title: The Lead-Free Military Surfaces Act

Preamble:

Whereas the presence of lead on exterior paint surfaces poses significant health and environmental risks, particularly in military settings, and whereas it is in the interest of national security and the well-being of military personnel and civilians to ensure a safe and healthy environment, this Act mandates the removal of all lead from exterior paint surfaces within the United States military, including Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC) paint and any other lead-based paints, and to substitute where necessary any and all lead painted surfaces with paint uncontaminated with lead.

Section 1: Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Lead-Free Military Surfaces Act."

Section 2: Findings and Purpose

(a) Findings:

1. Lead exposure can cause serious health issues, including but not limited to neurological damage, kidney damage, and reproductive problems.
2. Lead-based paints, including Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC) paint, have been used extensively in military installations, vehicles, and equipment.
3. The removal and replacement of lead-based paints will enhance the safety and operational readiness of the United States Armed Forces and ensure the well-being of our military personnel.

(b) Purpose:

The purpose of this Act is to eliminate the use of lead-based paints, including CARC paint, on all exterior surfaces within the United States military and to ensure the safe and effective removal and replacement of existing lead-based paint.

Section 3: Definitions

For the purposes of this Act:

1. **Lead-based paint:** Any paint or other surface coating that contains lead or lead compounds, including but not limited to Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC) paint.
2. **Exterior surfaces:** All exterior walls, structures, vehicles, equipment, and any other surface exposed to the outdoor environment.
3. **United States military:** All branches of the United States Armed Forces, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.
4. **Military contractors:** Any individual or entity that enters into a contract, subcontract, or any other agreement with the United States military for the provision of goods, services, or construction.

Section 4: Prohibition of Lead-Based Paint

(a) Prohibition:

Effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, the use of lead-based paint, including CARC paint, on any exterior surface within the United States military or by any military contractor is strictly prohibited.

(b) Compliance:

All military procurement contracts for paints and coatings, as well as contracts with military contractors, shall include provisions prohibiting the use of lead-based paints, including CARC paint.

Section 5: Removal and Replacement Program

(a) Program Establishment:

The Secretary of Defense shall establish a comprehensive program for the identification, removal, and replacement of all existing lead-based paint, including CARC paint, on exterior surfaces within the United States military and by military contractors.

(b) Timeline:

The program shall be implemented within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, with complete removal and replacement to be achieved within 5 years.

(c) Safety and Environmental Standards:

The removal and replacement process shall adhere to all relevant safety and environmental standards to ensure minimal risk to personnel and the environment.

(d) Funding:

The program shall be funded through appropriations as determined necessary by the Secretary of Defense and shall prioritize high-risk areas and installations.

Section 6: Reporting and Accountability

(a) Annual Reports:

The Secretary of Defense shall submit annual reports to Congress detailing the progress of the removal and replacement program, including:

1. The amount of lead-based paint removed.
2. The surfaces and installations treated.
3. The cost of removal and replacement efforts.
4. Any incidents or challenges encountered.

(b) Accountability:

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act shall result in administrative penalties and remedial actions as determined by the Secretary of Defense. Military contractors found in violation shall be subject to penalties, including but not limited to contract termination and debarment from future contracts.

Section 7: Public Awareness and Education**(a) Campaign:**

The Department of Defense shall conduct a public awareness and education campaign to inform military personnel, their families, and military contractors about the dangers of lead exposure and the measures being taken to remove lead-based paints, including CARC paint.

(b) Resources:

Educational materials and resources shall be made available to all military installations, personnel, and contractors.

Section 8: Effective Date

This Act shall take effect immediately upon its enactment.

Section 9: Severability

If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 10: Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions

All laws or parts of laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.