

Alabama Authorized to Implement the Lead Renovation Program

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(ATLANTA – December 9, 2010) On November 16, 2010, the State of Alabama received authorization to administer and enforce EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Program. The authorization became effective upon EPA's receipt of the State's certified Renovation Authorization Application which was submitted by Alabama Governor Bob Riley. Attorney General, Troy King has certified that the Alabama Program, which will be administered by the Alabama Department of Health and the University of Alabama Safe State, is at least as protective as EPA's and provides adequate enforcement.

"EPA appreciates Alabama's leadership in protecting kids from exposure to lead-based paint," said Gwen Keyes Fleming, Regional Administrator for EPA Region 4. "Because lead exposure can cause permanent, serious, life-long problems, renovators and rental property owners play a big role part in shielding children from its impact in their homes."

The RRP program mandates that contractors, property managers and others working for compensation, in homes and child-occupied facilities built before 1978, must be trained and use lead-safe work practices. They are also required to provide the lead pamphlet *"Renovate Right; Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools"* to owners and occupants before starting renovation work.

Lead contaminated dust is the most significant source of lead exposure for children. Common renovation activities like sanding, cutting and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips by disturbing lead-based paint, which can be harmful to adults and children. Lead-based paint was used in more than 38 million homes until it was banned for residential use in 1978. Lead exposure can cause reduced IQ, learning disabilities, development delays, and behavioral problems in young children.

You can learn more about protecting your family from lead-based paint and EPA's lead program at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or by contacting the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323).

For more information about Alabama's new program, including information on applying for certification or locating training, contact the Alabama Lead Program at 800-421-7141 or visit the state websites at www.adph.org/lead or www.Alabamasafestate.ua.edu.