

lead-based paint that may place young children at risk of developing lead poisoning. Lead poisoning in young children may produce permanent neurological damage, including learning disabilities, reduced intelligence quotient, behavioral problems, and impaired memory. Lead poisoning also poses a particular risk to pregnant women. The seller of any interest in residential real property is required to provide the buyer with any information on lead-based paint hazards from risk assessments or inspections in the seller's possession and notify the buyer of any known lead-based paint hazards. A risk assessment or inspection for possible lead-based paint hazards is recommended prior to purchase."

(4) Compliance assurance

Whenever a seller or lessor has entered into a contract with an agent for the purpose of selling or leasing a unit of target housing, the regulations promulgated under this section shall require the agent, on behalf of the seller or lessor, to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(5) Promulgation

A suit may be brought against the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under section 20 of the Toxic Substances Control Act [15 U.S.C. 2619] to compel promulgation of the regulations required under this section and the Federal district court shall have jurisdiction to order such promulgation.

(b) Penalties for violations

(1) Monetary penalty

Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this section shall be subject to civil money penalties in accordance with the provisions of section 3545 of this title.

(2) Action by Secretary

The Secretary is authorized to take such lawful action as may be necessary to enjoin any violation of this section.

(3) Civil liability

Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this section shall be jointly and severally liable to the purchaser or lessee in an amount equal to 3 times the amount of damages incurred by such individual.

(4) Costs

In any civil action brought for damages pursuant to paragraph (3), the appropriate court may award court costs to the party commencing such action, together with reasonable attorney fees and any expert witness fees, if that party prevails.

(5) Prohibited act

It shall be a prohibited act under section 409 of the Toxic Substances Control Act [15 U.S.C. 2689] for any person to fail or refuse to comply with a provision of this section or with any rule or order issued under this section. For purposes of enforcing this section under the Toxic Substances Control Act [15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.], the penalty for each violation applicable

under section 16 of that Act [15 U.S.C. 2615] shall not be more than \$10,000.

(c) Validity of contracts and liens

Nothing in this section shall affect the validity or enforceability of any sale or contract for the purchase and sale or lease of any interest in residential real property or any loan, loan agreement, mortgage, or lien made or arising in connection with a mortgage loan, nor shall anything in this section create a defect in title.

(d) Effective date

The regulations under this section shall take effect 3 years after October 28, 1992.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1018, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3910.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Toxic Substances Control Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(5), is Pub. L. 94-469, Oct. 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 2003, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 53 (§2601 et seq.) of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2601 of Title 15 and Tables.

SUBCHAPTER II—WORKER PROTECTION

§ 4853. Worker protection

Not later than 180 days after October 28, 1992, the Secretary of Labor shall issue an interim final regulation regulating occupational exposure to lead in the construction industry. Such interim final regulation shall provide employment and places of employment to employees which are as safe and healthful as those which would prevail under the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines published at Federal Register 55, page 38973 (September 28, 1990) (Revised Chapter 8). Such interim final regulations shall take effect upon issuance (except that such regulations may include a reasonable delay in the effective date), shall have the legal effect of an Occupational Safety and Health Standard, and shall apply until a final standard becomes effective under section 655 of title 29.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1031, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3924.)

§ 4853a. Coordination between Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Labor

The Secretary of Labor, in promulgating regulations under section 4853 of this title, shall consult and coordinate with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of achieving the maximum enforcement of title IV of the Toxic Substances Control Act [15 U.S.C. 2681 et seq.] and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 [29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.] while imposing the least burdens of duplicative requirements on those subject to such title and Act and for other purposes.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1032, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3924.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Toxic Substances Control Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 94-469, Oct. 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 2003, as amended. Title IV of the Act is classified generally to subchapter IV (§2681 et seq.) of chapter 53 of Title 15,

Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2601 of Title 15 and Tables.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 91-596, Dec. 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 1590, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 15 (§651 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 651 of Title 29 and Tables.

SUBCHAPTER III—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PART 1—HUD RESEARCH

§ 4854. Research on lead exposure from other sources

The Secretary, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct research on strategies to reduce the risk of lead exposure from other sources, including exterior soil and interior lead dust in carpets, furniture, and forced air ducts.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1051, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3925.)

§ 4854a. Testing technologies

The Secretary, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct research to—

- (1) develop improved methods for evaluating lead-based paint hazards in housing;
- (2) develop improved methods for reducing lead-based paint hazards in housing;
- (3) develop improved methods for measuring lead in paint films, dust, and soil samples;
- (4) establish performance standards for various detection methods, including spot test kits;
- (5) establish performance standards for lead-based paint hazard reduction methods, including the use of encapsulants;
- (6) establish appropriate cleanup standards;
- (7) evaluate the efficacy of interim controls in various hazard situations;
- (8) evaluate the relative performance of various abatement techniques;
- (9) evaluate the long-term cost-effectiveness of interim control and abatement strategies; and
- (10) assess the effectiveness of hazard evaluation and reduction activities funded by this chapter.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1052, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3925.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in par. (10), was in the original “this Act”, meaning title X of Pub. L. 102-550, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897, known as the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4851 of this title and Tables.

§ 4854b. Authorization

Of the total amount approved in appropriation Acts under section 4852(o)¹ of this title, there shall be set aside to carry out this part \$5,000,000

¹ See References in Text note below.

for fiscal year 1993, and \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1994.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1053, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3926.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 4852(o) of this title, referred to in text, was redesignated section 4852(p) of this title by Pub. L. 103-233, title III, §305(a)(1), Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 370.

PART 2—GAO REPORT

§ 4855. Federal implementation and insurance study

(a) Federal implementation study

The Comptroller General of the United States shall assess the effectiveness of Federal enforcement and compliance with lead safety laws and regulations, including any changes needed in annual inspection procedures to identify lead-based paint hazards in units receiving assistance under subsections (b) and (o) of section 1437f of this title.

(b) Insurance study

The Comptroller General of the United States shall assess the availability of liability insurance for owners of residential housing that contains lead-based paint and persons engaged in lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction activities. In carrying out the assessment, the Comptroller General shall—

- (1) analyze any precedents in the insurance industry for the containment and abatement of environmental hazards, such as asbestos, in federally assisted housing;
- (2) provide an assessment of the recent insurance experience in the public housing lead hazard identification and reduction program; and
- (3) recommend measures for increasing the availability of liability insurance to owners and contractors engaged in federally supported work.

(Pub. L. 102-550, title X, §1056, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3926.)

SUBCHAPTER IV—REPORTS

§ 4856. Reports of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

(a) Annual report

The Secretary shall transmit to the Congress an annual report that—

- (1) sets forth the Secretary’s assessment of the progress made in implementing the various programs authorized by this chapter;
- (2) summarizes the most current health and environmental studies on childhood lead poisoning, including studies that analyze the relationship between interim control and abatement activities and the incidence of lead poisoning in resident children;
- (3) recommends legislative and administrative initiatives that may improve the performance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in combating lead hazards through the expansion of lead hazard evaluation and reduction activities;
- (4) describes the results of research carried out in accordance with subchapter III of this chapter; and