Cookware Regulatory Wins in India Ghana and Mexico

Some screenshots and rough notes of an ILPPWA 2026 Pure Earth Webinar, attended after the first half hour (because the PREVENT webinar ran half an hour overtime) by Elizabeth O'Brien, The LEAD Group Inc. Australia. Some of the questions were answered live but I did not manage to record the answers.

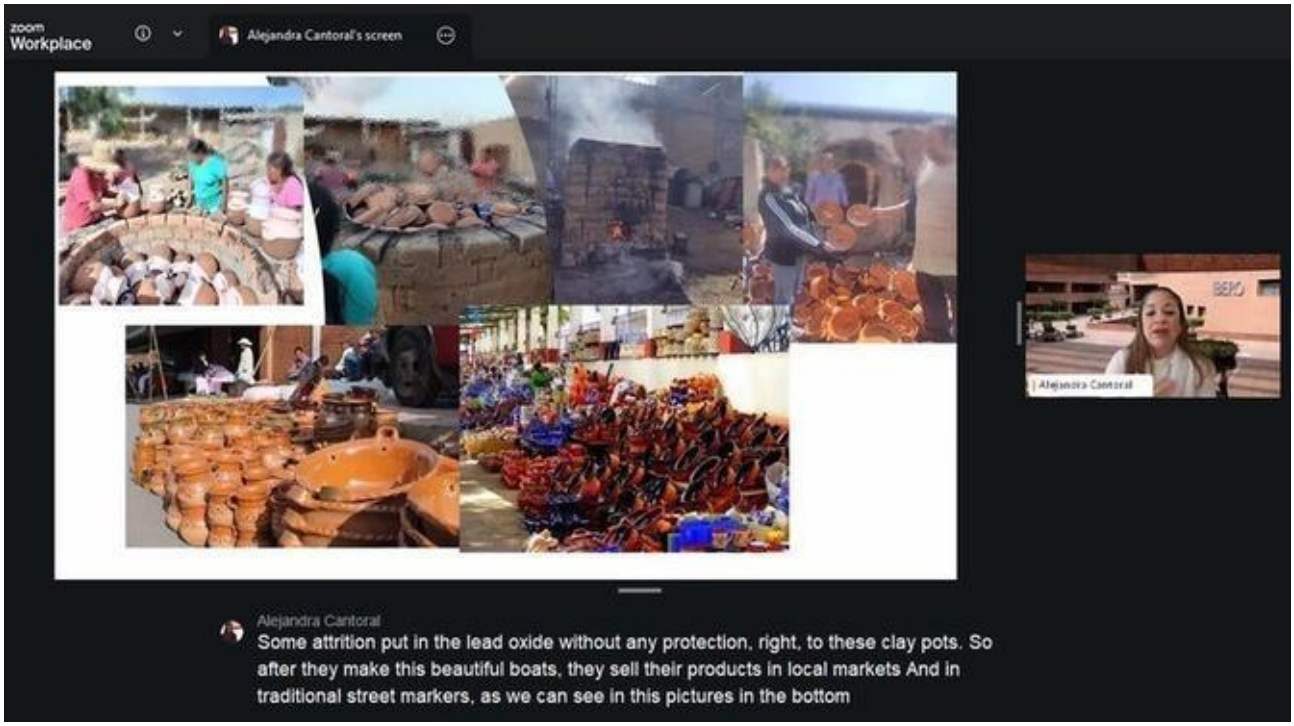
Full title of Pure Earth Webinar:

From Law to Impact: Cookware Regulatory Wins in India, Ghana, and Mexico

Pure Earth Cookware Webinar presenters: Alejandra Cantoral, Mexico; Benjamin Cheabu and Ing Adelaide Teimle Aikins, Ghana; Emershia Sharmine and G Bhavani, India

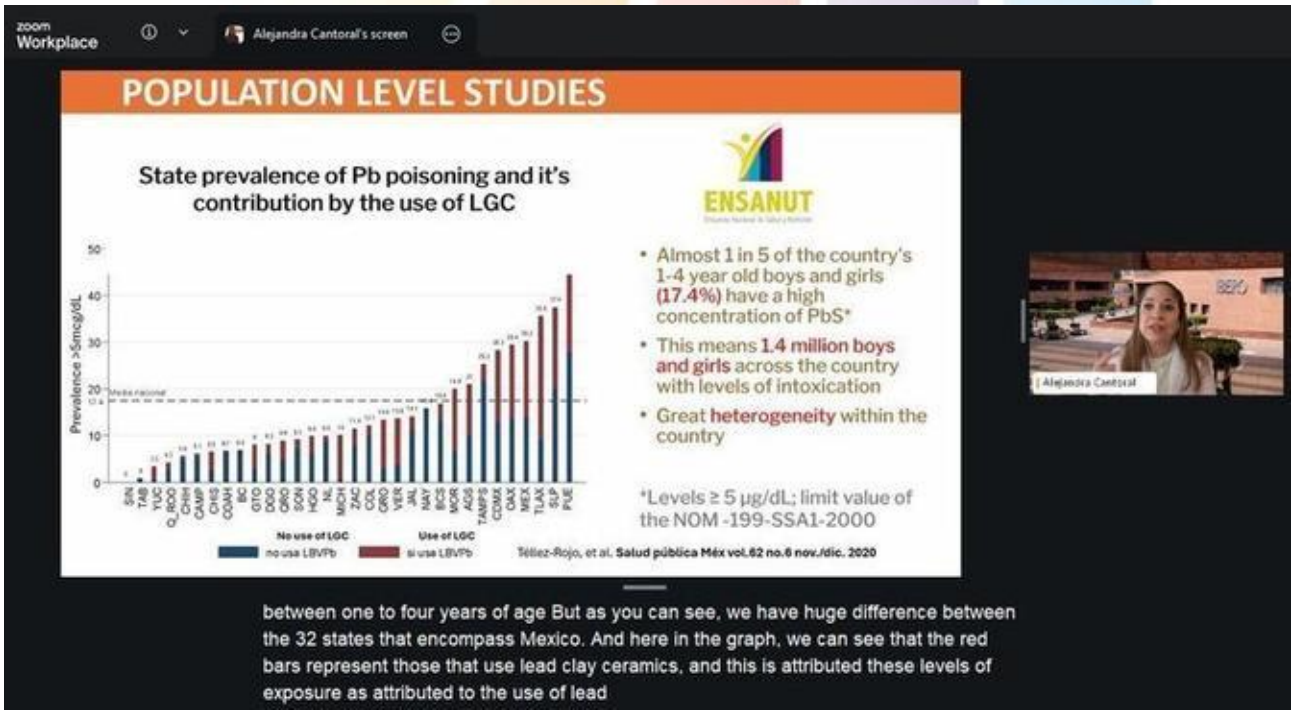
Oct 22, 2026 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada), Oct 23, 2026 midnight AEST (Australian Eastern Summer Time)

Alejandra Cantoral, Mexico



SLIDES:

Alejandra Cantoral: 10-50,000 Mexican families make pottery to sell for a living



Alejandra Cantoral: 1.4m Mexican children have blood lead levels of more than 5µg/dL



Question (Q) from Akanksha Saletore 12:54 AM

Would conforming to the standards require a large fundamental shift in the manufacturing process or smaller tweaks in source materials, certain steps in the process, etc? And what are the financial implications for manufacturers?

Q&A moderated by Reithinger, Pure Earth

Q from Bereket Tesfaye 12:14 AM

It's great to know that Ghana has established standards for lead and other hazardous metals in domestically manufactured cookware. Does Ghana also have similar standards for imported cookware?

Q from Bereket Tesfaye 12:21 AM

What is the maximum permissible or acceptable limit for lead in metallic cookware? Is there an internationally recognized standard, a WHO, US FDA guideline specifying the allowable lead content or lead migration limit for metallic cookware?

Answer (A) from Benjamin Cheabu 12:38 AM

It is 100 parts per million (100 ppm) lead for now in Ghana.

Q from Akanksha Saletore 12:28 AM

Is a 6-month timeline typical for passing standards of this nature? Was there something that accelerated/ prolonged the process in Ghana?

Q from Mark Engman 12:31 AM

How do governments finance the testing and enforcement mechanisms?

A from Ing Adelaide Teimle Aikins: The government doesn't bear the cost of testing, the

manufacturer does.

A from G. Bhavani: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) runs labs that can do the testing and certification lasts for 5 years. Non-compliance can lead to cancellation of the licence to manufacture. The BIS app can be used on any mobile phone and consumers can verify the ISA licence number and provide the manufacturer and whether the product complies with BIS certification. The app can be used to make complaints by uploading a photo and other details about a product. If women in particular are aware of lead in cookware products, because these products are in every home, we can get the message out.

A from Alejandra Cantoral: in Mexico, if the manufacturer is using lead-free glazes, you can be guaranteed the products will comply with the standard.



Q from Carol Sumkin 12:28 AM

For Dr. Cantoral, what new strategies are being used to help artisans transition to lead-free glaze, given how embedded the use of lead glaze is?

A from Alejandra Cantoral: we train artisans to use lead-free glazes after cleaning lead out of all the kilns and the workshops. Also they support families to sell their products but to export the products they have to obtain certification.

Q from Emmanuel Odjam-Akumatey 12:30 AM

Ing Adelaide, I'm confused about why lead in paint must have a limit of 90 ppm but cookware which has a direct connection with oral ingestion can be 100 ppm lead.

A from Benjamin Cheabu 12:39 AM

The 90 ppm limit for paint and the 100 ppm reference for cookware were developed on different bases. They do not mean that a higher lead exposure is acceptable from cookware.

For cookware, the critical question is how much lead migrates into food under cooking conditions. Total lead content is useful for screening, but it cannot answer that question completely.

So, scientifically, the higher number is not justified simply because the lead is contained in metal. It needs supporting migration evidence and neither threshold should be presented as a guarantee of zero risk.

Q from Autman Tembo 12:34 AM

This question is directed to India. In countries such as Malawi, informal manufacturers of metal cookware are more common than formal ones. These producers range from small family-owned businesses to individual artisans operating within local communities. How can a mandatory standard be effectively enforced for this category of manufacturers?

Q from Akanksha Saletore 12:54 AM

Would conforming to the standards require a large fundamental shift in the manufacturing process or smaller tweaks in source materials, certain steps in the process, etc? And what are

the financial implications for manufacturers?



Q from Anne Riederer 01:01 AM

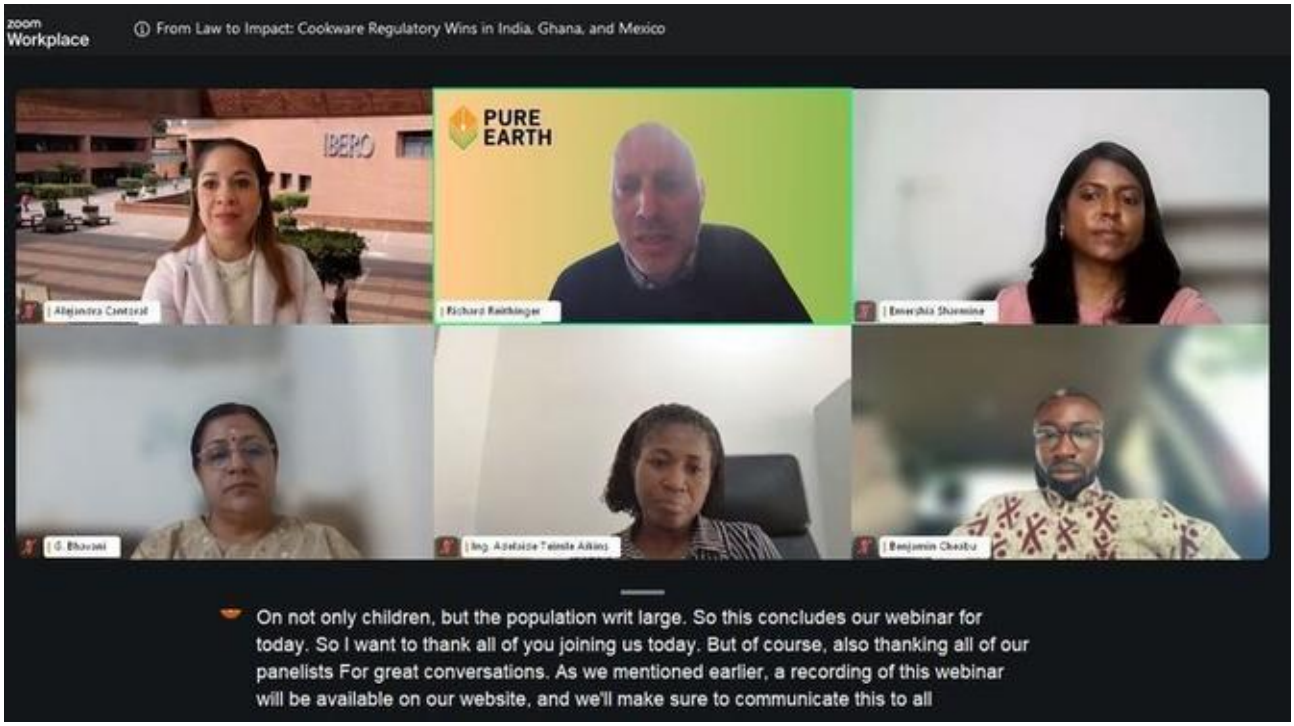
Related to Akanksha's question, what are people doing to help screen scrap metal inputs: do scrap collectors and recyclers also need to be certified, follow test methods, etc.?

A from Emershia Sharmine and G Bhavani: if a manufacturer has 10 sites, testing must be carried out at all 10 sites.

Q: Is XRF used to test lead in cookware?

A from Benjamin Cheabu: in Ghana, XRF is only a screening tool. It will not answer how much lead leaches from the cookware or what blood lead level might be reached in people consuming food cooked in the cookware.

Pure Earth Cookware Webinar Presenters from India, Ghana & Mexico



[Webinar ended 1:28am Australian Eastern Summer Time]