

HANDHELD XRF SCREENING FOR DANGEROUSLY HIGH LEVELS OF TOXIC METALS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

K. Russell

Olympus Innov-X, Woburn, MA USA

info@innovx.com

Dangerously high levels of lead (Pb), arsenic (As), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr), cadmium (Cd) and other toxic metals can be found in the domicile and play areas of peoples in developing countries where the knowledge of their danger are not yet known or where regulations are simply not yet feasible. World health advocacy groups are using handheld XRF analyzers to quickly ascertain the presence and quantity of these contaminants. This helps them determine a course of corrective action to help developing countries prosper with local resources and with safe working practices and living conditions. Examples of success stories and on-going projects using handheld XRF for rapid in-field determination of these toxic metals in developing countries will be presented.