

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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DWS Circular Letter # 2013-05

To: Community and Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems

From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section 

Date: October 10, 2013

Subject: Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

In January 2011 Congress enacted *The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act* (Lead Reduction Act) which amends Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to primarily change the definition of "lead-free" from 8.0 percent to 0.25 percent. The Lead Reduction Act takes effect on January 4, 2014 and requires pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures to be "lead free." The SDWA states the following: "*it [is] unlawful for any person to introduce into commerce any pipe, or any pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture that is not lead free*" and "*no person may use any pipe, any pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, any solder, or any flux, in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption that is not lead free.*"

Lead is not normally found in source water, but can enter drinking water systems through the corrosion of pipes and plumbing fixtures. Regulatory efforts to reduce the presence of lead in drinking water tend to focus on the lead content of water system components. The federal law applies to any product used in systems where water is *anticipated* to be used for human consumption. Key revisions of the Act include:

- The lead content amendments become effective concurrently with the use prohibition in 1417(a)(1) and the introduction into commerce prohibition in 1417(a)(3);
- A product introduced into commerce legally on January 3, 2014, can't be used in the installation or repair of a PWS or residential or non-residential facility providing water for human consumption on January 4, 2014;
- Potential purchasers that could be affected by the lack of a staggered effective date include: plumbers, plumbing product retailers, developers, schools, and water systems;
- Back inventory that does not meet the 0.25% lead free calculation cannot be installed after January 3, 2014 unless it is exempt from the prohibitions.

Michael Hage is the Department's subject matter expert and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has additional guidance available on its website (<http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm#lfree>) to assist public water systems and other impacted entities. The complete text of the Lead Reduction Act can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-111s3874enr/pdf/BILLS-111s3874enr.pdf>.

cc: Ellen Blaschinski, DPH Regulatory Services Branch Chief; Certified Water System Operators; Cross-Connection Survey Inspectors; Backflow Prevention Device Testers; Licensed Lead Consultants; Richard Hurlburt, Director, DCP Occupational & Professional Licensing; Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board; Joseph Cassidy, Acting State Building Inspector, DAS Division of Construction Services; Betsey Gara, CWWA; Pam Monahan, CT Section-AWWA; Local Health Directors



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