

How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Materials

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Disclaimer

The document discussed in this presentation is for informational purposes only. Any mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute EPA endorsement or recommendation for use.

Small Drinking Water Systems Technical Communications Workgroup

- Formed during the 2011 workshop.
- Focus is on targeted communication efforts between EPA and the states, taking into account the different needs and skills of system operators.
- Diverse workgroup:
 - EPA staff (ORD & Regions)
 - Representatives from 14 state environmental agencies
 - Representatives from utilities, academia, professional groups & programs
 - Plumbing contractors
- Decided that our first project would focus on the lead and/or copper and would be targeted to system operators.

Workgroup Project Focus:

Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

January 4, 2011: Congress passed the Act into Law

Changes the definition of “**lead-free**” in the SDWA by reducing allowed lead content of not more than 8%, to a weighted average of not more than 0.25% when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures.

January 4, 2014: The Act will go into effect

All manufacturers must comply with the new standard. Some have been preparing for the new requirement by conforming to the standard early.

Although the Act does not include a Federal requirement for certification of materials, there may be state or local laws or certain entities that do.

Why was this Focus Chosen?

- Health departments, states, utilities, and consultants have been trying to prepare for the change early, but find it difficult to offer guidance on how to easily identify products that meet the requirement.
- Small systems that exceed the lead action level want to be able to advise consumers on what replacement devices to buy.
- Small system may make large purchases, only to find higher lead release and is now stocked with an inventory of undesirable product.
- Retailers may be unaware of the lead content of products on shelves, therefore not able to answer consumer questions.

EPA has been asked for guidance prior to the mandatory compliance date

Issues Identifying Lead-Free Products

- There is not a universally used lead-free logo/seal
- Some manufacturers have their own lead-free logos
- Eight ANSI accredited third-party certification bodies, each with their own certification mark
- Fraudulent use of certification marks

Although it is not required, consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing products with a mark indicating that they have been certified by an accredited third-party certification body as meeting the new lead-free requirement.

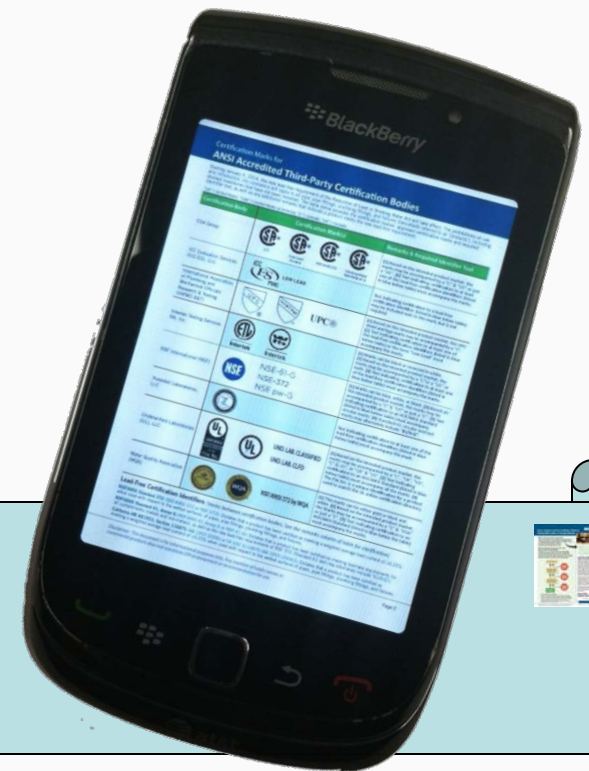
Who can Use this Document?

Although the document was designed with system operators as the target audience, it can easily be used by others:

- Building and plumbing contractors
- Schools and daycares
- Military bases and federal buildings
- Retailers needing to review and stock inventory
- Homeowners replacing faucets
- Just about anyone...

How can it be used:

- Downloaded to a smartphone or tablet
- Printed as a whole document or individual pages



NSF 61-G with certification marks on products



NSF 61-G with certification mark on packaging



Identifier text
next to the
certification mark

NSF 372 with certification mark on packaging



Identifier text next to the certification mark



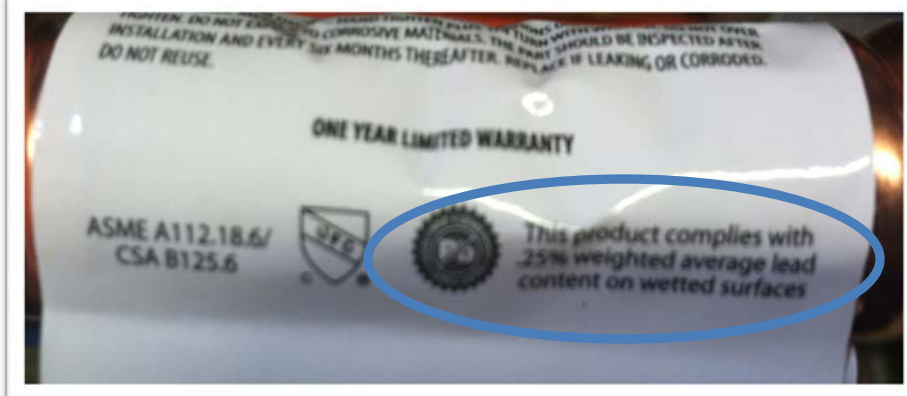
Identifier text under the certification mark

NSF 61 with CA Code AB1953 identifier text under certification mark



No certification mark or identifier text on tag or packaging

This does not necessarily mean that the product does not meet the new lead-free requirement. Contacting the manufacturer is the best way to confirm the lead content.



Updates in late 2013 and early 2014

With possible update to document

NSF 61

Separate from Annex G and NSF 372, NSF 61 requires that products comply with the lead-free requirements of the SDWA. Required compliance is the same date of the new Act (January 4, 2014). [Updates to certification labeling?](#)

Annex G

Annex G is due to be retired from NSF 61 in late 2013. Although it will be retired, products bearing NSF 61-G certification marks will continue to indicate compliance with NSF 61 and NSF 372.

Update to ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 and CSA B125.3

Specifies evaluation to NSF/ANSI 372. Manufacturers must comply with the updated standard by December 31, 2013. [Updates to certification labeling?](#)

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<http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100GRDZ.txt>

