



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.
Secretary

KENNETH L. KIMMELL
Commissioner

November 7, 2013

Re: Lead Reduction Act Capacity Survey

Dear Community Public Water Systems:

In January 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law *The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act* (Lead Reduction Act), which amends Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Lead Reduction Act changes 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 new pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures to be “lead free.”**

Although the Massachusetts Drinking Water Program (MassDEP DWP) lacks the authority to interpret or change EPA’s position on the Lead Reduction Act, we want to assist public water systems comply with its requirements. Based on guidance from EPA, MassDEP offers the following information:

1. **Existing Stock of Materials:** The Lead Reduction Act prohibits the use of “any pipe, or plumbing fitting or fixture, any solder, or any flux, in the installation or repair of any public water system... providing water for human consumption that is not lead free.” Therefore, if any public water system carries existing stock of materials that does meet the new definition of “lead free”, then such materials may not be used after January 4, 2014.
2. **Hydrants:** EPA has indicated that hydrants will not be exempt and therefore any new hydrant that is not “lead free” may not be installed after January 4, 2014. However, AWWA and others are working with EPA on this issue. MassDEP will continue to monitor this and advise you of any changes in EPA’s position.
3. **Water Meter Change-out/Repair:** EPA has indicated that new meters, as well as replacement parts installed into existing meters, installed after January 4, 2014 must meet the new definition of “lead free.”
4. **Seasonal Water Meters:** EPA has indicated that seasonal meters removed from service in the fall of 2013 may be placed back into service in the spring of 2014, but they must go back in the same location.
5. **Additional Information:** EPA guidance on the Lead Reduction Act for public water systems can be found at: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.

The MassDEP DWP has prepared the attached survey to determine the capacity of Community Public Water Systems to comply with the Lead Reduction Act, as well as to determine what assistance MassDEP can provide to help public water systems meet the requirements of the Lead Reduction Act and reduce the level of lead in public drinking water. **Please submit your responses by December 31, 2013.**

If you have further questions about this survey, please contact Paul Niman at 617-556-1166 or at Paul.Niman@state.ma.us.

Very truly yours,

Yvette dePeiza, Director
Drinking Water Program

This information is available in alternate format. Call Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Diversity Director, at 617-292-5751. TDD# 1-866-539-7622 or 1-617-574-6868
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

Printed on Recycled Paper

City/Town: _____
PWS Name: _____
PWS ID No. _____

MassDEP Drinking Water Program Lead Reduction Act Capacity Survey

The Lead Reduction Act requires all new pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures to be “lead free” by January 4, 2014. All existing stock of materials held by public water systems that does not comply with the new definition may no longer be used and must be disposed of. Please complete the following survey and return it to the MassDEP DWP by December 31, 2013. MassDEP DWP will use the results of the survey to provide assistance to public water systems to help them comply with the EPA Lead ban and reduce the level of lead in drinking water.

1. Do you plan on disposing of all materials that do not meet the new “lead free” definition by January 4, 2014?
Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure _____
If Yes, how do you plan on disposing of these materials?

2. What are the types of materials and quantities that you need to dispose of?

| Type of Material (pipes, valves, hydrants, etc.) | Estimated Quantity | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| | No. of Pieces | Weight (lbs) |
| | | |
| | | |
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3. Have you already purchased new materials that meet the “lead free” definition?
Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure _____
4. Do you plan on replacing already installed materials with new “lead free” materials before they reach the end of their useful life?
Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure _____
5. Do you need technical assistance in comply with The Lead Reduction Act?
Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure _____
If Yes, describe any specific assistance you need. _____

Name of Person Completing Survey: _____ Title: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____
Signature: _____

By **December 31, 2013**, please submit the survey to:
MassDEP Drinking Water Program
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
Attn: Paul S. Niman