



PRESS RELEASE

STATUS OF LOW LEAD REQUIREMENTS FOR POTABLE PLUMBING PRODUCTS IN CANADA

February 7, 2013

The United States has made some significant changes to their Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which comes into effect on January 4, 2014. The key revision to the Act that affects the plumbing industry is the change in the definition of "lead free." The new regulation significantly reduces the current allowable level of lead content from that content which complies with the industry standard (NSF 61) or 8% dependent on product, down to no more than a weighted average lead content of 0.25% on wetted surfaces when evaluated for pipes, valves, pipe fittings, and plumbing fittings, anticipated to convey or dispense water for human consumption through drinking or cooking.

Many have contacted CIPH to inquire on the status of low lead in Canada. Here is what we understand:

Canada has moved forward in mirroring the intent of the U.S. regulation for low lead policies in the US Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) with an effective date of January 4, 2014. However, currently there are no regulations relating to lead content in plumbing products in Canada. Regulators, legislators and Health Canada plan to approach the issue through the national system of plumbing codes that can be adopted and enforced provincially/territorially through the recognized network of plumbing and health inspections. Health Canada has been an active participant on the development of the Standards and the integration of these standards into the Canadian model National Plumbing Code. The Canada Consumer Products Safety Act (CCPSA) which came into force July 2010 may allow Health Canada to pull non-conforming product from the market.

A new version of the ASME/CSA standard for plumbing fittings was published on December 15th 2012 in Canada indicating the requirements needed in order for plumbing fittings to meet the 0.25% weighted average lead content requirement. New versions of ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 and CSA B125.3 standards for plumbing fittings specifies the test method in NSF 372 for the low-lead evaluation requirements.

The updated CSA standards state that, fittings intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption through drinking or cooking should not contain a weighted average lead content in excess of 0.25% when evaluated in accordance with the test method in NSF/ANSI 372.

The ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 and CSA B125.3 standards are now published and available, meaning that a manufacturer with applicable product within the standards' scope must comply with the updated standard by December 31, 2013 ([CSA Certification Notice](#)). This will provide guidance to the industry as it aligns with the January 4, 2014 implementation date in the US, specifically for plumbing fittings as listed in the scopes of ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 & CSA B125.3.

CIPH has contacted all accredited Canadian Certification Bodies and they have indicated that they will be using the same December 31, 2013 implementation date as CSA for certification to the new ASME A112.18.1-2012/CSA B125.1-12 and CSA B125.3-12 standards.

CSA Group has advised that more standards updates are already in the works to integrate low lead criteria into applicable potable water standards including backflow valves (CSA B64 series), pressure pipes (CSA B137), drinking water treatment (CSA B483), flexible connectors (ASME A112.18.6/CSA B125.6) and other products intended for potable water applications meant for human consumption. We anticipate that updates for these other Standards will be available for comment throughout 2013.

CIPH understands that the Standing Committee on Building and Plumbing Services (SCBPS) is evaluating the referencing of the new ASME A112.18.1-2012/CSA B125.1-12 and CSA B125.3 -12 Standards as early as possible to allow the provinces, territories and industry time to adopt and implement in harmony with the U.S. date. It is anticipated that the new Standards will be referenced in the 2013 Referenced Standards Update for the NPC 2010.

What does this mean to the Industry at large?

The harmonization of dates and requirements with the U.S. should eliminate any confusion in the marketplace including:

- The potential risk of “dumping” of leaded products into Canada,
- Confusion over mismatched implementation dates, and
- The burden of inventorying duplicate SKUs for the same product for leaded and non-leaded products.

CIPH recommends that manufacturers and wholesaler/distributors in Canada take **immediate** action to evaluate their inventory to ensure that affected items are converted to compliant products where necessary to lessen the impact and the risk of having non-compliant product left on shelves after the January 4, 2014 compliance date.

CIPH is working with the CSA Group to deliver a lead webinar for Thursday February 21st at 10 AM EST on the subject of certification of products. For more information on affected products, dates for compliance, or certification requirements, please contact CSA Group or your Certifier. If you are interested in the development of product standards to incorporate low lead criteria, please contact CSA Group for more information on membership and serving on their technical committees.

Contact:

Ralph Suppa, CAE
President & General Manager
Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating
Tel: 416.695.0447
Email: r.suppa@ciph.com

For Technical Inquiries:

Kevin Wong, CAE
Technical Advisor
Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating
Tel: 416.695.0447
Email: k.wong@ciph.com