

# EPA Final “Lead Free” Rule *What the Industry Needs to Know*



*Learn how to keep your products compliant with Federal law.*

## OVERVIEW OF RLDWA CODIFICATION

On July 29, 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a Final Rule codifying the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011 (RLDWA) and the Community Fire Safety Act of 2013 (CFSA). This Final Rule **prohibits the use and sale of products intended for providing water for human consumption, that are not “lead free.”**

## WHAT PRODUCTS ARE AFFECTED?

**Any product sold for installation, or use, in a new system where water passing through the device may be consumed must comply with this Final Rule.** The water sector has applied the RLDWA lead-free requirement broadly to pipe, fittings, fixtures, and appliances used in potable water applications, including plumbed in devices such as drinking water coolers, point-of-entry and point-of-use water treatment products, refrigerator ice and water dispensers, water heaters, water pumps, and coffee makers, among others.

## WHAT CERTIFICATION DOES MY PRODUCT NEED?

EPA recognizes NSF/ANSI Standard 372 lead-free certification for products intended for providing water for human consumption. NSF/ANSI 372, *Drinking Water System Components – Lead Content*, is an American National Standard that establishes a standardized methodology for the determination and verification of product compliance to minimize lead contaminants.

***New products must meet the low-lead requirements when introduced into commerce. All products will have until September 1, 2023 to be evaluated and certified using the NSF/ANSI 372 lead content methodology.***

## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION?

Important differences include:

1. This Rule **mandates third-party certification** by ANSI-accredited certification bodies, unless the manufacturer has less than 10 employees. Certification is mandatory for new products.
2. Allows for self-certification of custom fabricated products.

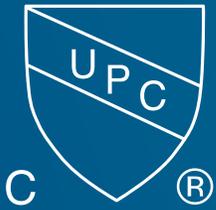
## WHAT PRODUCTS ARE NOT AFFECTED?

Products manufactured **exclusively for non-potable water** applications, such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or other uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption, are not subject to the statute. Other exclusions include toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, fire hydrants, shower valves, clothes washing machines, emergency drench showers, emergency face wash equipment, and eyewash devices, among others.

## CERTIFY WITH IAPMO OR ASSE INTERNATIONAL

Marks and product packaging labels are important to users of drinking water products. Without a clear indication that a product is lead-free, inadvertent use of non-lead-free products could occur in the field.

IAPMO R&T and ASSE International are **third-party certification bodies** that can evaluate products per NSF/ANSI Standard 372 and provide nationally recognized certification. With successful completion of that evaluation and certification, manufacturers are authorized to use IAPMO or ASSE certification marks to prove they meet RLDWA.



# We can help you transition to third party certification

With the EPA'S final rule codifying the RLDWA, the list of affected products is broader than some may realize. The rule will require many manufacturers to transition from self-certification to third party certification to NSF/ANSI 372.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE & TURNAROUND TIMES

Collaborative staff and dedicated project managers understand the demands of the industry, which goes a long way toward keeping projects on schedule. It also helps that our certification process is straight forward, allowing for quick turnaround times. IAPMO R&T offers a simple fee structure, fair priced application and listing fees, several lab choices to keep costs low, and auditors located around the globe to keep facility inspection costs to a minimum.

## CERTIFICATION MADE SIMPLE

- You provide materials lists and application forms
- We provide a quote and request for samples
- Samples are sent
- Testing is conducted
- Manufacturing facility inspection is completed
- Products are listed on the public website

**Completed in as little as 3-6 weeks!**

## ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION & TESTING

IAPMO R&T holds many accreditations as a certification body, including ANSI, SCC, EMA, ConAgua, and WaterSense IAPMO R&T Lab, our in-house lab, also holds accreditations from ANAB, EMA, and others.



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