



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lead Copper Rule for Community Water Systems Form 20682

Lead Exceedance Public Education Requirements

A public water system that exceeds the lead action level at the 90th percentile tap sample shall deliver to the public the public education materials listed, and shall provide copies of the public education materials to the TCEQ within ten days after the delivery of the materials to the public. All activities must be repeated once every **6 months** as long as the Public Water System is in Lead exceedance status.

"SOME HOMES IN THIS COMMUNITY HAVE ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS IN THEIR DRINKING WATER. LEAD CAN POSE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO YOUR HEALTH. READ THE ENCLOSED NOTICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION".

STEP ONE

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and **(insert water system name)** are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal law you are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by **(insert date when corrosion control treatment will be installed for your system)**. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and public education. We are also required to replace each lead service line that we control if the line contributes lead concentration of 15 ppb or more after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation, please give us a call at **(insert water system's phone number)**. This document explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Develop the content of your written public education materials. The following information must be included in your PE materials. **The text in *italics* is mandatory and must be included as written.** Headings **in bold must be addressed, but can be customized.** Fill-in-the-blank templates (in English and Spanish) are available at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrrm/compliancehelp.html.

General Information on Lead

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water [Insert name of water system] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/ buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or the wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps to Take at Home to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing the water is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. Some local laboratories that can provide this service are listed at the end of this booklet. For more information on having your water tested, please call (insert water system's phone number).

If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you should take the following precautions:

1. Run your water to flush out lead. Run water for 15 - 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing [or insert a different flushing time if your system has representative data indicating a different flushing time would be better in reducing lead exposure in your community or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. (It is likely that systems with lead service lines will need to collect data to determine the appropriate flushing time for lead service lines.)
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.
5. Test your water for lead. Call us at [insert phone number for your water system] to find out how to get your water tested for lead. [Include information on your water system's testing program. For example, do you provide free testing? Are there labs in your area that are certified to do lead in water testing?]
6. Get your child's blood tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.
7. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets,

fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as “lead free.” Visit the NSF Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

What happened and What is being done

[Insert information about how and when the exceedance was discovered in your community and provide information on the source(s) of lead in the drinking water, if known.]

[Insert information about what your system is doing to reduce lead levels in homes in your community.]

Appropriate Language Information

Different Language Communities. If significant proportions of the population in your community speak languages other than English, the PE materials must contain information in the appropriate language(s) regarding the importance of the notice or a contact where persons can obtain a translation or assistance.

STEP TWO

Get State Approval

You must submit all written PE materials to the TCEQ prior to delivery.

STEP THREE

Deliver your public education materials

Timing: All PE materials must be delivered within 60 days after the end of the monitoring period in which the exceedance occurred and repeated once every 12 months, EXCEPT providing information on or in each water bill, which must be included in each billing cycle no less than quarterly and two press releases per 12 month period for as long as you exceed the lead action level.

Required Methods of Delivery for Community Public Water Systems	
Small <3,300 customers	Large >3,300 customers
Deliver printed materials (pamphlets, brochures, posters) to all bill paying customers	Deliver printed materials (pamphlets, brochures, posters) to all bill paying customers
Deliver public education materials to the following facilities and	Deliver public education materials to the following organizations that are

<p>organizations that are served by the system that are most likely to be visited regularly by pregnant women and children:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local public health agencies 2. Public and private schools or school boards 3. Women Infants and Children (WIC) and Head Start programs 4. Public and private hospitals and medical clinics 5. Pediatricians 6. Family planning clinics 7. Local welfare agencies 	<p>located within your service area, along with a cover letter encouraging distribution to all potentially affected customers or users:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local public health agencies 2. Public and private schools or school boards 3. Women Infants and Children (WIC) and Head Start programs 4. Public and private hospitals and medical clinics 5. Pediatricians 6. Family planning clinics 7. Local welfare agencies
<p>Make a good faith effort to locate the following organizations within the service area and deliver materials that meet the content requirements, along with an informational notice that encourages distribution to all potentially affected customers or users. The good faith effort to contact at-risk customers may include requesting a specific contact list of the organizations from the local Public Health Agencies, even if the agencies are not located within the water system service area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensed childcare centers 2. Public and private preschools 3. Obstetricians-Gynecologists and Midwives 	<p>Make a good faith effort to locate the following organizations within the service area and deliver materials that meet the content requirements, along with an informational notice that encourages distribution to all potentially affected customers or users. The good faith effort to contact at-risk customers may include requesting a specific contact list of the organizations from the local Public Health Agencies, even if the agencies are not located within the water system service area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensed childcare centers 2. Public and private preschools 3. Obstetricians-Gynecologists and Midwives
<p>Provide information on or in each water bill quarterly</p>	<p>Provide information on or in each water bill quarterly</p>
<p>Submit press release to newspaper, television, and radio stations</p>	<p>Submit press release to newspaper, television, and radio stations</p>
<p>Conduct one (1) activity from one of the following general categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Announcements • Paid Advertisements 	<p>Conduct three (3) activities from one, two, or three of the following general categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Announcements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display Information in Public Areas • Email to Customers • Public Meetings • Delivery to Every Household • Provide Materials Directly to Multi-family Homes • Other methods if required by the TCEQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid Advertisements • Display Information in Public Areas • Email to Customers • Public Meetings • Delivery to Every Household • Provide Materials Directly to Multi-family Homes • Other methods if required by the TCEQ
	<p>Post material on a publicly accessible Web Site (for systems serving > 100,000 individuals)</p>

Please send the copy of your posted Public Education Notice to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lead/Copper Monitoring Coordinator
Public Drinking Water Section, MC 155
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087