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Are You Ready for California's AB 1953: Deadline January 1, 2010?

Beginning January 1, 2010, California state law prohibits the introduction into commerce of any product intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption that is not "lead free" as defined in the California Health and Safety Code Section 116875 revisions as per Assembly Bill (AB) 1953. After January 1, 2010, the maximum allowable lead content is 0.2% lead in solder and flux, and 0.25% lead in products intended to convey or dispense drinking water, as determined by a weighted average of wetted surface areas.

All pipe, pipe or plumbing fixtures, solder or flux must be certified by an independent American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third party certification body. Other products covered by the new California regulation (such as drinking water treatment products) may be required to obtain certification through an ANSI-accredited certification body as well. Products registered under the state's "Water Treatment Device Certification Law" in California will not require additional third party certification to the low lead standard but all products will have to comply with the revisions to the California Health and Safety Code Section 116875 revised as per AB 1953 using one of the following methods:

1. Self certify or substantiate that your products comply,
2. Third party laboratory testing demonstrating compliance, or
3. Product certification using an ANSI-accredited certification body to verify compliance.

Many American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or Standards Council of Canada (SCC) accredited certification organizations (COs) offer certification for low lead compliance to California (or Vermont) regulations, and will work with you to be compliant before the January 1st deadline. A stepped approach is recommended so as to not go through the cost and time to test each product. The step-by-step process is as follows:

1. COs should perform a desktop review of your lead content on any product first.
2. COs should perform some sort of screening test to confirm the findings of the desktop evaluation. California is using scanning technologies like XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) scanning on materials that contain lead in their formulation and some materials that are disclosed not to contain lead in their formulation to confirm the exact lead content.
3. Using the California Department of Toxic Substances Control protocol, digestion will be performed if the results from the XRF scan are higher than the disclosed % lead content. The protocol can be found here (<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/upload/lead-in-plumbing-testing-protocol.pdf>). Many COs have copies of the protocol and have procedure in place to adhere to it.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 250 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$5 billion annually.



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