
State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

TO: All Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Water System

**FROM: Cindy Forbes, P. E.
Deputy Director
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

DATE: March 7, 2016

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCED PUBLIC ACCESS TO LEAD AND COPPER RULE RELATED INFORMATION

As you are aware, there has been considerable attention in recent months regarding the lead levels found in the drinking water supply serving consumers living and working in the Flint, Michigan area. Although the 90th percentile tap samples lead action level is rarely exceeded by California public water systems, some of the individual tap samples have exceeded the action level.

To maintain high confidence in the drinking water that you are providing to your customers, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DOW) is recommending to all public water systems that are subject to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) to enhance their public outreach efforts on and the availability of LCR compliance-related information. This outreach may include the posting of the following information on the water systems' websites or physically posting the information alongside other water quality notices, such as the Annual Consumer Confidence Report. Our recommendation is for public water systems to make available to the public the following:

- The latest 90th percentile values for the most recent round of LCR tap sampling; and
- The number of sites sampled, the number of sites that exceeded an action level, and the number of samples that were invalidated (if applicable); and
- Justifications for invalidation of LCR samples (if applicable); and
- Information on the locations of lead service lines in the distribution system, together with a map of the identified areas and an inventory of lead plumbing in the system; and
- Additional health information on how to minimize lead in drinking water if lead was detected above the action level in more than 5%, and up to and including

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10% of sites sampled. The health information language specified in Section 64482(c), Chapter 15, Title 22 of the Consumer Confidence Report regulations may be used for this purpose.

As a reminder, please ensure residents that participated in the lead and copper tap sampling promptly receive the sampling results for their homes and provide additional assistance if lead is detected in the water sample. It is recommended that you provide the monitoring results to the residents no later than 30 days after you receive the monitoring results from your laboratory and within 1-2 working days if lead and/or copper levels over the respective action levels are found.

DOW is working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to ensure California's water systems are in compliance with the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule and taking necessary actions to protect public health. The USEPA will be working on revising and strengthening the Lead and Copper Rule. DOW will keep you abreast of any upcoming changes. The latest information will be available on the DDW's website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/leadandcopperrules.html.

If you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact your local District Engineer or county health department.