

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSUMER NOTICE OF LEAD TAP WATER MONITORING RESULTS

The Federal Lead and Copper Rule (40 C.F.R. Part 141, Subpart I) requires that all water systems provide notice of the individual tap results from lead tap water monitoring carried out under the requirements of the rule to the persons served by the water system at the specific sampling site. **Notice must be provided within 30 days of receiving laboratory results, or 3 days for taps that exceed the Lead Action Level of 15ppb.** This is required after every monitoring period whether or not there was a lead action level exceedance. Notice of lead results must also be provided to users whose water was tested for purposes other than compliance sampling.

The template that follows, includes the required health language and definitions. It also includes fields the water system must fill in: water system name and ID #; participant name, if applicable; sample location; lead result; sample collection date; the system 90th percentile lead level; and water system contact information. Additional information may be provided in the space near the end of the report where applicable, e.g., an explanation of corrosion control treatment used at the water system. If your water system has lead service lines or goosenecks/pigtails, you may need to increase the recommended flushing time in the notice.

Lead is most often reported by laboratories in units of mg/L. When distributing public notice like this, the EPA requires that the notice contain whole numbers to be easier to understand. To convert from mg/L to ppb, multiply the result by 1000 or move the decimal three places to the right. Non-detect or <0.001mg/L can be written as “< 1 ppb” or “less than 1 ppb”. Three examples are provided below:

$$0.100 \text{ mg/L} = 100 \text{ ppb} \quad | \quad 0.025 \text{ mg/L} = 25 \text{ ppb} \quad | \quad 0.0050 \text{ mg/L} = 0.005 \text{ mg/L} = 5 \text{ ppb}$$

Community water systems: Notice must be provided by mailing letters, hand-delivering notices, or leaving notices in living units. Where there are multiple owners or rental tenants, the water system must make every attempt to provide notice to them in addition to the primary owner.

Email may be used as a notification method only if the water system has current email addresses that are used for communication routinely. Emails must be sent with a clear subject line about lead in drinking water, and with a return receipt setting if possible. Users without email addresses or whose email addresses generate errors must be contacted by the water system by other means such as a letter. The notice information must be included as text within the email. An attachment or web link may be provided but not take the place of text within the body of the email. A copy of the email notice must be submitted to the Division along with the Certification Form, similar to the process for paper letters.

The **Certification Form** documents who distributed the notice, when, and how. You can find the certification form in the ANRonline Service portal at <https://anronline.vermont.gov/app/#/formversion/a6c433bf-1585-497c-ac38-36f56bff964d>. The certification form should be filled out AFTER the notice is distributed. Include with the Certification Form a copy of at least one 30-day notice, and one 3-day notice if any were issued. Certification is due 3 months after the end of the monitoring period. If you need a paper copy of the certification form, please reach out to the Lead and Copper Rule manager.

CONSUMER NOTICE OF LEAD TAP WATER MONITORING RESULTS

Community Water System Name: _____
Water System ID#: _____

Consumer Name: _____

Street address and tap location: _____
(e.g., 123 Main St kitchen cold water)

We appreciate your participation in the lead tap monitoring program. Results from your tap and the statistic for the overall water system are provided below. ppb (parts per billion) is a measurement unit.

Your result was _____ ppb lead. The sample was collected on _____

Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero ppb for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

The water system's 90th percentile for this monitoring period was _____ ppb lead.

- This was less than or equal to 15 ppb which is not a lead action level exceedance
- This was above 15 ppb which is a lead action level exceedance (see below);
- The water system did not conduct compliance monitoring at this time or sampling is incomplete.

What Does a Lead Action Level Exceedance Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb (equal to 0.015mg/L). This means utilities must ensure that lead in water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. If the water system has a lead action level exceedance, that will be indicated above and all water users will receive additional information from the water system.

What Are The 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. If you are concerned about lead exposure, ask your health care provider about testing child blood lead levels.

What Are The Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of lead exposure are deteriorating lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil, and some plumbing materials. Lead is rarely found in a water system's surface or groundwater source, but may enter drinking water if plumbing materials such as solder or fixtures, including some made of chrome or brass, contain lead and corrode. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing, solder, and fixtures that contain lead. (see next page)

What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. (The samples the water system is required to collect for testing must be taken after the water was sitting in the pipes for at least 6 hours, known as “first-draw” samples.)
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. FDA set a limit for lead in bottled water of 5 ppb. Not all water filters remove lead. Check the product for independent testing from a group such as NSF International (NSF.org, 800-673-8010) that verifies a specific model of filter removes lead.
- **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the phone number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead by a certified laboratory. Results may differ between first-draw water and water collected after the tap has been flushed.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures that contain lead.** The amount of lead allowed in plumbing solder and fixtures has been reduced by several state and federal laws over the last few decades.

Additional information from the water system (if applicable):

For More Information

Water system phone number: _____

Other water system contact info: _____

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-5323.

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division website <http://dec.vermont.gov/water/> search for Lead and Copper Rule.

Date distributed: _____