



Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

What is the purpose of today's roundtable?



- EPA is reviewing the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) published in January 2021.
- EPA has been conducting virtual engagements to inform the review of the LCRR under E.O. 13990.
- EPA wants to hear from tribal communities about your thoughts on the LCRR and your experiences with lead in drinking water.
- Your input will help inform the agency as it reviews and makes decisions regarding the LCRR.

What do I need to know about lead in drinking water?



- Lead in pipes, solder, and faucets can dissolve in water or break off as particles.
- Lead service lines are the most significant source of lead in drinking water.
- In children, exposure to lead can cause serious health effects like lower IQ, learning and behavioral problems.
- In adults, health effects can include higher risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems.

What is the Lead and Copper Rule?




- The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes EPA to establish regulations for public water systems.
- EPA first established the Lead and Copper Rule in 1991 to reduce exposure to lead and copper in drinking water.
- The rule requires some water systems to treat drinking water to keep lead in place. This is called corrosion control.
- When corrosion control is not enough to reduce lead levels, the LCR requires water systems to take additional actions including lead service line replacement and public education.

What is the Lead and Copper Rule?



- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for lead: 0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$
 - The MCLG is zero because there is no level of exposure to lead that is without risk.
- Action Level (AL) for lead: 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$
 - The AL is set at a level based on feasibility.
- The LCR requires water systems to test water at the tap in certain homes that have lead in the plumbing.
- Water systems must compare the lead sample results to the AL to determine if they need to take actions to reduce lead exposure.



Overview of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

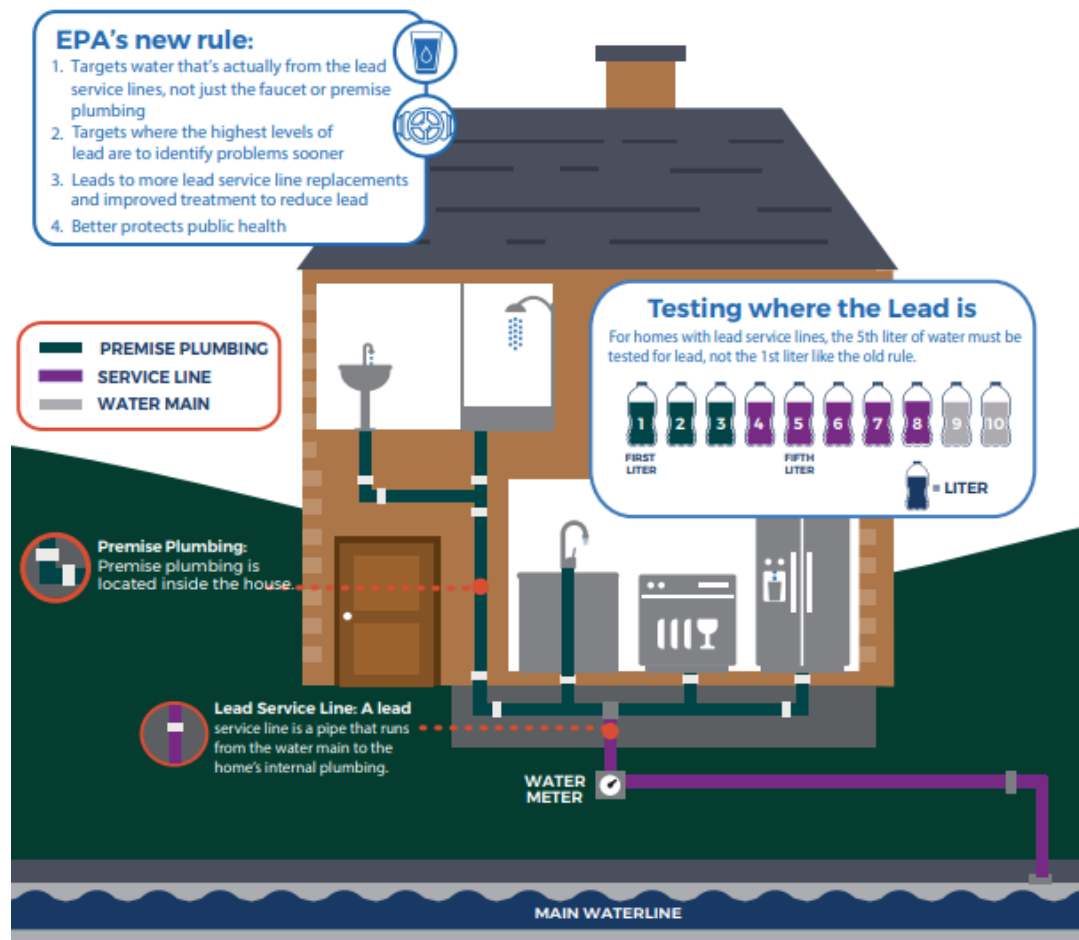
Identifying Lead Service Lines



- Requires water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) inventory.
- LSL inventories must be publicly available (online for systems serving > 50,000 people).
- Water systems must notify customers annually if they have an LSL or if the lead status is unknown.

New Tap Sampling Techniques

- Requires water systems to sample for lead at homes served by lead service lines (LSLs).
 - 5th liter sample
- Prohibits water systems from providing instructions that may temporarily reduce lead levels before sampling.
- Requires the use of wide-mouth sampling bottles.



New Lead Trigger Level



- Establishes a new Trigger Level (10 µg/L) in addition to the AL
- Systems that exceed the TL are required to take actions sooner:
 - If a system does not have corrosion control treatment (CCT), they must conduct a study which prepares the system to install CCT if they later exceed the AL.
 - If a system has CCT, they must make adjustments so it is more effective at reducing lead levels.
 - If a system has LSLs, they must start a goal-based replacement program and inform the public of opportunities to have their LSLs replaced.

More Frequent Monitoring



- Systems above the TL must monitor for lead at least annually. They must continue annual monitoring for at least two years after the last monitoring period above the TL.
- Systems above the AL must monitor every six months. They must continue six-month monitoring for at least two years after the last monitoring period above the AL.
- Systems with a source water or long-term treatment change must monitor every six months.

Corrosion Control Treatment



- Improves CCT requirements.
- Removes provisions allowing water systems to stop the CCT installation process if they drop below the lead AL.
- “Find-and-Fix” requires water systems to evaluate individual sites with lead tap sample results greater than 15 ug/L.
 - Water system must determine if a “fix” is needed (e.g., localized adjustment to CCT, flushing, etc.).
 - The fix may be outside of the system’s control (e.g., premise plumbing) but they must provide documentation to the Primacy Agency.

Replacing Lead Service Lines



- LSL must be fully replaced to count towards the mandatory replacement rate.
- Eliminates loopholes that allowed LSLs to remain in place (e.g., test out provisions).
- Water systems serving > 10,000 people that exceed the TL must implement a goal-based lead service line replacement (LSLR) program.
- Water systems serving > 10,000 people must conduct LSLR if they exceed the AL regardless of CCT status.
 - Must conduct LSLR until the system is at or below the AL for two years.

Small System Flexibility



- Applies to small community water systems (CWSs) serving $\leq 10,000$ people and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs)
- If a water system exceeds the TL, they must choose a compliance option and obtain approval from the Primacy Agency.
- The water system must implement the approved option if they later exceed the lead AL.
- Compliance alternatives:
 - Install and maintain optimized CCT
 - Replace all LSLs within 15 years (cannot stop once started)
 - Install and maintain point-of-use devices
 - Replace all lead-bearing plumbing

Expanding Public Education and Notifications



- Requires water systems to notify customers within 24 hours if the system exceeds the lead AL.
- Water systems must notify customers whose individual tap sample > 15 ug/L within 3 days.
- Requires water systems to deliver public education materials to impacted consumers during water-related work that may disturb LSLs.
- Revises the Consumer Confidence Report requirements:
 - Clear health effects language
 - Statement on availability of LSL inventory
 - Range of tap sample levels and public access to results

Sampling for Lead in Schools



- Requires CWSs to test for lead in elementary schools and child care facilities.
 - Elementary schools and child care facilities are sampled once over a 5-year period.
 - Secondary schools are sampled if they request it.
- After one 5-year round, the water system must sample for lead in any school or child care facility that asks to be sampled.
- Systems must provide a copy of EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities.
- EPA does not have the statutory authority to require schools to take remediation actions or conduct additional sampling.

How has EPA been engaging with the public?



- EPA has extended the LCRR effective date to provide time for the agency to engage with the public to inform the E.O. 13990 review.
- EPA held public listening sessions on April 28 and May 5.
- EPA has hosted a series of community roundtables.
- EPA is holding a tribal roundtable on July 19.
- EPA is holding a national stakeholder roundtable on July 21.
- EPA is hosting a national co-regulator meeting to review input provided in the public engagements on July 28 and 29.
- EPA is considering written comments on the LCRR submitted to www.regulations.gov docket EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0255 until July 30, 2021.



For more information on the Lead
and Copper Rule Revisions
please visit.

www.epa.gov/safewater