



Legend No Lead FAQ

What is the National No Lead Law?

Federal Law 111-380, entitled “Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act”, amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) definition of “lead free” to mean not more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures. The law also amends the lead content of solder and flux to 0.2%.

When must we comply?

The bill became a law January 4, 2011 and becomes effective three years later, January 4, 2014. Any plumbing product introduced into commerce or installed in a potable water system, whether new or repair, must comply.

Who administers the law?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the SDWA. The requirements of the SDWA are interpreted by state health and plumbing code writing authorities; thus, they will be enforcing the standards.

What proof do I have a product is compliant with the no lead law?

The California state law requires independent third party and laboratory certification of any potable water plumbing product. As a result, NSF 61 Standards were amended to establish testing protocol to prove compliance. These standards are NSF 61 – 8/9, Annex G and NSF 372. The Federal Law does not require third party certification, but the industry has adopted the aforementioned standards.

How can I distinguish whether a product is compliant?

Currently, there are no requirements or industry standards for marking product to signify whether it is made from no lead brass alloy. However, Legend is marking most of our products with an “NL” within the casting or forging. An “O” is use for parts too small for the “NL”. In addition, all valves will have hang tags clearly identifying products as being for use in potable water systems or non-potable water applications. Furthermore, all product nomenclature will include a “NL” in the suffix. For more detailed information, visit the “No Lead Product Identification” page within <http://www.legendnolead.com/>.

Why is no lead brass alloy product more expensive?

The finished cost of a no lead brass or bronze alloy product may be as much as 25% to 50% more due to three factors. First, the alloy material costs as much as 35% more. Second, the production time is longer since the no lead alloys are more difficult to forge, cast, or machine reducing piece count as much as 50%. Lastly, the costs of scrap increases more than 30% since these new alloys cannot be mixed with other brass alloy scraps.

I understand there are different no lead brass alloys. What are the differences?

Legend uses three primary no lead brass alloys for our products. Silicon brass/bronze alloys remove the lead and replace it with small quantities of Silicon. Likewise, bismuth brass/bronze alloys use bismuth as a substitute for the lead. There are as many as 20 ASTM bismuth brass/bronze specific alloys. The third alloy is binary brass/bronze, which is an alloy comprised of copper and zinc. Binary brass alloys have been used in Europe for many years. Please visit <http://www.legendnolead.com/> for more detailed information on the no lead alloys page.

Are hose bibs exempt?

Yes, they are exempt in California and Maryland. Vermont does not exempt hose end valves. Louisiana is similar to the Federal Law. Federal Law 111-380 does list exemptions which include “exclusively for non-potable services....irrigation, outdoor watering, or any others uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption.” In some instances; human consumption is possible where a hose bib may be used; therefore, Legend will offer several no lead hose end valves. For a copy of the Federal and any of the four state laws, please visit the Reference Resources at <http://www.legendnolead.com/>.

What should I be doing now to prepare for this no lead law?

A significant percentage of your inventory may very well become obsolete. Today is when you want to move slower turn items to no lead brass alloys, selling off your inventory of the soon-to-be obsolete counterparts. Now is the time to sell your inventory because traditional brass/bronze alloy products for potable water applications will be obsolete and non-saleable after the start of next year.

Legend’s Downstream Thinking® helps our customers transition to compliant no lead product. Our guaranteed performance will assist you with managing your inventory conversion to compliant material. With Legend’s guaranteed 24-hour shipping, 100% line item fill rate, 100% line item order accuracy, no order minimum or quantity requirement; our customers can buy what you need without overburdening your inventory yet still fulfill your service commitments to your contractor customers.

But how do I know which items to convert?

Any item that is a brass or bronze alloy product that is used in potable water applications should be considered and reviewed. Products that are constructed of stainless steel, galvanized steel or thermoplastic are inherently lead free and compliant.

Our Legend Customer Service Representatives can provide you with an exact cross reference for those items you have purchased from Legend over the past year. It will include the compliant material part number, UPC and other pertinent information. This can be provided in Excel format for easy uploading into your system. With a simple telephone call, you can have the information you need to begin your conversion to no lead.

What if an item is used sometimes for heating or gas and other times for plumbing systems?

There are many ball valves, for example, that are used in many applications aside from potable water. This is why Legend will offer both no lead and traditional brass alloy valves across many models. The valves will be clearly marked and tagged for either potable water or non-potable water applications. You can then have the option to stock both, clearly separating your stock thus offering alternatives for your contractor customers.

What industry resources are available to educate our customers?

The PHCC and the ASA have teamed up with a group of manufacturers to assist in educating distributors and contractors about the Federal No Lead Law. Legend is pleased to be a member of the “Get the Lead Out Plumbing Consortium”. The consortium is addressing regional and local wholesale associations, PHCC and ASPE groups throughout the country.

A Legend Sales Manager is available to provide you with more information in your no lead transition plan. Please call Legend at 1-800-752-2082 for any assistance.

**Downstream
Thinking**

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