

The EPA's 2020 Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)

On December 22, 2020, the EPA finalized a major update to the LCR requiring community water systems to test for lead in elementary schools and child care facilities.

- **“Fifth Liter” sampling:** Four liters of water must be flushed before testing the fifth liter, ensuring water has passed through the lead service line (LSL).
- **Wide-mouth bottles:** For the most accurate results, use only wide-mouth bottles.
- **No more aerator flushing:** Sampling instructions can no longer recommend flushing or removing the faucet aerator.
- **Lead Service Lines:** Buildings with LSLs and other lead plumbing will be targeted. When a sample exceeds 15 ppb, conduct follow-up sampling and take steps to reduce lead.



NEW TRIGGERING ACTIONS - New 10 ppb Trigger Level

When a tested level exceeds 10 ppb, more rapid implementation of corrosion control, including LSL replacement, is required. This is down from 15 ppb with up to four years allowed to pass before action is taken.

CLOSING LOOPHOLES AND REPLACING MORE LSLs

At least 3% of LSLs must be replaced each year when 10% of the sampling results exceed 15 ppb. Under the new rule, systems:

- Must have a plan in place and being replacing lines when sample results are above trigger level.
- Cannot avoid replacing LSLs through testing.
- Must replace system-owned LSL portions when customers choose to replace their line portion.
- Partial LSL replacements, which can lead to short-term spikes in lead concentration, will not meet new requirements.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

- Water systems are required to identify and make public the locations of LSLs.
- Homeowners must be notified within three days of a residential sample testing above 15 ppb.
- If a water system exceeds its action level, customers must be notified within 24 hours and educational materials provided within 60 days.
- Property owners must be notified about opportunities to replace LSLs and any financial assistance programs available to help customers replace their side of the line.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- epa.gov/safewater/pipereplacement
- epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/final-revisions-lead-and-copper-rule



*Products for
Quality Water*



CALL 610-275-4453

DUFFCO.COM

INFO@DUFFCO.COM

January 19, 2021 10:32 AM