



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 11-05

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Lead Free Residential Fire Sprinkler Heads

The purpose of this information bulletin is to advise local code enforcement agencies and interested parties of information pertaining to the use of low lead components within residential plumbing systems.

The requirement for low lead components is by legislative action specifically 2006 Assembly Bill (AB) 1953, Chapter 853, states that this bill, commencing on January 1, 2010, revised the prohibition to apply to any pipe or plumbing fitting, or fixture intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption. Health and Safety Code, Section 116875. (a) reads “No person shall use any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, solder, or flux that is not lead free in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a facility providing water for human consumption...” The intent of the referenced section of the Health and Safety Code is to address plumbing components used for human consumption. Health and Safety Code, Section 25214.4.3 ties the testing and evaluation requirements to those items subject to Health and Safety Code, Section 116875. Furthermore, Section 116875 provides direction for items that are not subject to its requirements, which excludes service saddles, backflow preventers for non-potable services such as irrigation and industrial, and water distribution main gate valves that are two inches in diameter and above. Pipes, pipe or plumbing fittings, or fixtures that are used in manufacturing, industrial processing, for irrigation purposes, and any other use where the water is not intended for human consumption through drinking or cooking are not subject to Section 116875.

Based on the information provided in the Health and Safety Code and information contained in the original published guidance from the author of AB 1953, the Department of Toxic Substance and Control and CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal concur that provisions of the Health and Safety Code 25214.4.3 is not intended to require residential fire sprinkler heads to be tested and evaluated; and the product is excluded from the requirements of Health and Safety Code, Section 116875.

Inquires concerning lead in plumbing may be directed to the Department of Toxic Substances Control. For more information please visit:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/pollutionprevention/leadinplumbing.cfm>

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>