

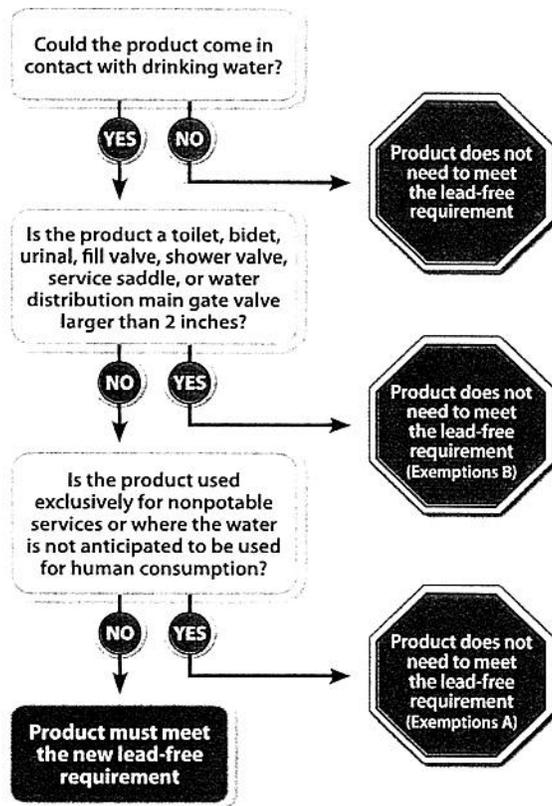
# How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Materials

## What is the new lead-free requirement?

In 2011, the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act was signed into law. The Act has reduced the lead content allowed in drinking water system and plumbing materials by changing the definition of "lead-free" in Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Although the law doesn't go into effect until January 4, 2014, some entities have been preparing for the change.

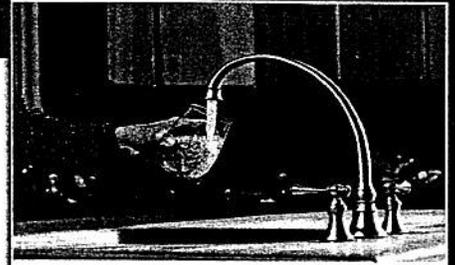
## How do I know which products must meet the new lead-free requirement?

Starting January 4, 2014, the prohibitions on use and introduction into commerce will apply to all pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures (henceforth referred to as "products"), including stocked inventories that have not been installed. This includes coated or uncoated brass or bronze materials. By using the flowchart below as a guide, you can determine if a product must meet the new lead-free requirement:



### Lead-Free Requirement Exemptions

- (A) The new requirement does not apply to pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, or fixtures, including backflow preventers, that are used exclusively for nonpotable services, such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or any other uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption.
- (B) The new requirement does not apply to toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves, service saddles, or water distribution main gate valves 2 inches in diameter or larger.



The term "lead-free" has been updated from not more than 8% lead content 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."

## Is lead-free certification required for products?

There is no mandatory federal requirement for product testing or third-party certification under the Safe Drinking Water Act; however, some entities may require certification.\* Consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing products with a mark indicating that they have been certified by an accredited third-party certification body as meeting the new lead-free requirement.

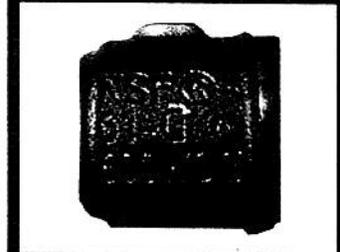
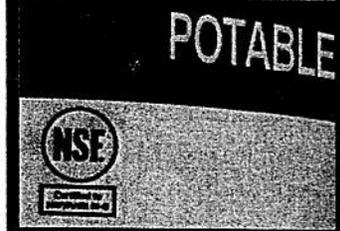
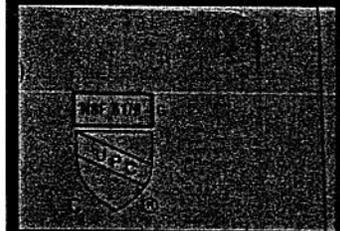
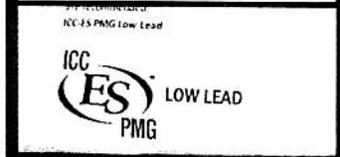
Products that have not been certified may still meet the new lead-free requirement. If you are unable to determine if a product is lead-free, contacting the manufacturer is the best way to confirm the lead content.

\*Although other states have laws pertaining to the lead content in products, California is currently the only state that has a Bill (SB 1334) requiring certification. However, there may be local laws or entities in other states that require it.

## How to identify products that are certified as lead-free

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**Examples of packaging and material with certifiers' marks for the new requirement**



**Who are the certification providers?**

Although it is not a federal requirement, one way to ensure that a product is lead-free is to verify that it has been certified. In the United States, the following American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies provide product certification to the new lead-free requirement for manufacturers of drinking water system and plumbing materials:

- CSA Group
- ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES), LLC
- International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Research & Testing (IAPMO R&T)
- Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc.
- NSF International (NSF)
- Truesdail Laboratories, Inc.
- Underwriters Laboratories (UL), LLC
- Water Quality Association (WQA)

**How do I know if a product has been certified?**

Each of the ANSI accredited third-party certification bodies has a registered trademark that they use to certify a multitude of products for various requirements. However, the trademark alone does not necessarily mean that the product has been certified to the new lead-free requirement. Some of the certification bodies have modified marks and some may require that identifier text accompany a mark.

**What do the lead-free certification marks look like?**

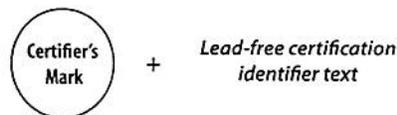
Because markings vary between certification bodies, finding a product that has been certified as lead-free to the new requirement can be a challenge—unless you know what to look for. The specific certification marks and identifier text for each certification body can be found in the comprehensive **Table on Page 3**, and can also be found for each certification body individually on **Pages A1–A8**.

Examples of the marks on packaging and engraved on a product can be seen in the photo strip to the right.

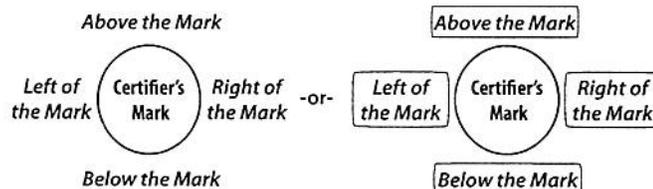
**Where are the lead-free certification marks located?**

Products will display the certification bodies' approved certification marks and any required identifier text. The following steps will help you to identify the variety of ways that both can be found on certified products:

1. The certifier's marks will typically be located on the front or back of the packaging or engraved on the product itself. If required, text for the lead-free certification identifier will also be included:



2. Next to the certifier's mark, the lead-free certification identifier text can stand alone or can be enclosed in a box:



# Lead Free\* Frequently Asked Questions

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## Understanding the Law

- **What is the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act?**

The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act is a federal law that amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act sets new, lower standards for the amount of lead permissible in plumbing products that come into contact with potable (drinkable) water. The EPA has primary responsibility for interpreting the SDWA with individual states using health or plumbing codes or other standards consistent with the SDWA and EPA regulations to enforce those standards.

- **What is the SDWA?**

The Safe Drinking Water Act, first passed in 1974, and significantly amended in the 1980s and 90s, sets minimum requirements for drinking water quality and safety. It is implemented by the EPA and enforced primarily by individual states.

- **What does the law mandate, exactly?**

The new Lead Free legislation reduces the permissible levels of lead in the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures to a weighted average of not more than 0.25%. Products that meet this standard are referred to in the law as "Lead Free."

- **When does the law go into effect?**

The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act goes into effect on January 4, 2014.

- **What is the driving force behind the new law?**

California and Vermont were first in reducing the standards for lead in potable water systems. Both states implemented new standards in 2010. They were followed by legislation in Maryland, implemented in 2012, and in Louisiana, effective in 2013.

- **Are there any exceptions to the law?**

The new standard does not apply to pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings or fixtures that are used exclusively for nonpotable services such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or any other uses where water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption. The law also specifically excludes toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves, service saddles, or water distribution main gate valves that are 2 inches in diameter or larger.

- **Does the law really affect me? How?**

The law will affect nearly everyone. It makes it illegal to sell or install pipes, fittings and fixtures in applications providing water for human consumption that do not comply with the new standard. That means whether you sell or install these products, you will need to supply products compliant with the new law.



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## Understanding the Law (cont'd)

- **So, what happens on January 4, 2014?**

Based on the wording in the law, it will be illegal to sell or install products for use in potable water applications that are not lead free. This will dramatically reduce the available market for products made with traditional materials.

- **Who enforces this law?**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is tasked with implementing this law, but primary responsibility for enforcing the law is left to the states. Each state has its own method of ensuring conformance to the SDWA. Most pass responsibility to cities, towns, and municipal utilities, who use health and plumbing codes to drive enforcement. California requires product certification by an independent third party and certifying to NSF 61 standards is becoming common.

- **What if I don't comply?**

Failure to comply with these codes can result in fines or lawsuits, and the requirement to replace installed non-compliant products, a costly endeavor.

## Lead Free\* Products

- **Why is there lead in brass products, anyway?**

In standard traditional brass and bronze, lead has been added to act as an alloying material and to prevent porosity and enhance machinability.

- **What is replacing lead in the new material?**

There are a variety of new material formulations that have been developed that use silicon, bismuth, antimony, tin, nickel, or special heat treatments as alloying elements.

\*The wetted surface of our Lead Free products contacted by consumable water contain less than 0.25% of lead by weight.

## Watts Water Technologies Brands

- **What are Watts Water Technologies brands doing to meet the new standards?**

Interestingly, a lot of our products were actually Lead Free to begin with! Many of our products are manufactured from plastic and Stainless Steel, which are both naturally Lead Free. Our Water Quality products, our gas products, our drainage products and our floor heating products are largely unaffected by this legislation because they were either already Lead Free or they do not come into contact with drinking water.

Those brass and bronze products that complied with the previous SDWA-safe levels of lead, but do not meet the new requirements are being converted to new materials. Watts will be using material grades that utilize a variety of alloying elements with silicon being our primary choice.

Watts Water is also constructing a new foundry that will exclusively produce Lead Free products. This will minimize the risk of lead contamination that could occur in a foundry manufacturing both Lead Free and products that contain lead. It also will allow us to focus on making one metal very effectively.

Effective transition of product inventory is a key requirement of complying with the new law. Please contact your Watts sales representative to discuss your needs and how Watts can assist your company with this important task.

- **How are your Lead Free products certified?**

Watts Water Technologies brands certify Lead Free products to ANSI/NSF 372 requirements.

- **How can I tell if a Watts product is Lead Free?**

Check the product nameplate and/or markings. All Watts Water Technologies brand products that contact potable water include a Lead Free marking or label or both. If in doubt, call our customer service group at **978-689-6066** or check the **WeAreLeadFree.net** for clarification.



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Canada: (905) 332-4090 • Fax: (905) 332-7068 • [www.wattswater.com](http://www.wattswater.com)

# Identifying Lead Free\* Products

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Watts Water Technologies knows that it is critical for you to be able to quickly and easily identify Lead Free\* products and part numbers. We have designed a comprehensive set of identifiers for our brands to make compliance easier and help eliminate mistakes.

Look for LEAD FREE\* on labels, boxes and tags, and/or LF markings on the body of many of our Lead Free\* products.

The prefix LF will also appear as part of our part numbers when a standard version is also offered. *NOTE: If a product is only available in a Lead Free\* version, the LF will not be present.*

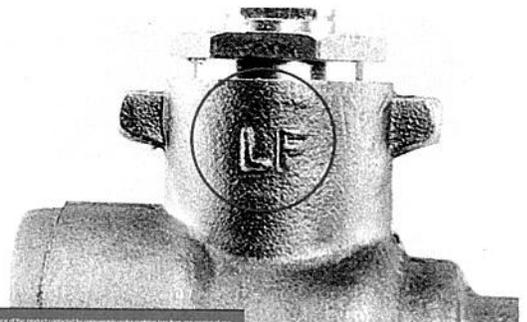
Example:

**Traditional Product:** 25AUB-Z3  
**Lead Free\* Product:** LF25AUB-Z3

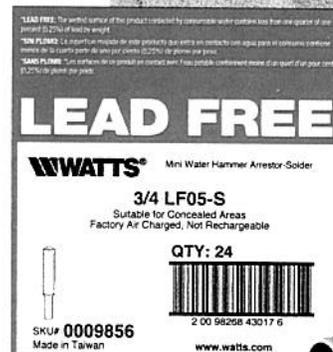
All Lead Free\* products from the Watts Water Technologies family of brands will carry one or more of these identifiers.

\*The wetted surface of this product contacted by consumable water contains less than 0.25% of lead by weight.

## Markings on some products



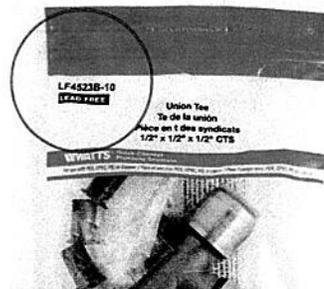
## Labels



## Tags



## Bags



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