



DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY – Number 20

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Public Law 111-380, Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

The Chesapeake Public Facilities Manual, states that all development must comply with all applicable State and Federal Laws. To comply with Public Law 111-380, known as the “Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act”, amends Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for the purpose of reducing lead in drinking water. The new law will take effect on January 4, 2014.

Currently, section 1417 (a)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act states that “no person may use any pipe, any pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, any solder, or any flux in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption that is not “lead free.” Under section 1417 (d) “lead free” means that solders and flux may not contain more than 0.20 percent lead; and pipes, pipe fittings, and well pumps may not contain more than 8.0 percent lead; and plumbing fitting and fixtures must meet standards established under section 1417(e) of the Safe Water Drinking Act.

The following is a link to Section 1417 of the Safe Water Drinking Act:

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/dws/plumbing.cfm>

Public Law 111-380 amends the definition of “lead free.” in the Safe Water Drinking Act. It reduces the acceptable lead content in pipes, pipe fittings, and components from 8.0 percent to 0.25 percent. In addition to the reduction in lead content in pipes, pipe fittings and components; all products must comply with National Standard NSF 61, the performance standard established under section 1417 (e) of the SDWA.

After January 4, 2014, any components that do not meet the new “lead free” definition cannot be used. This includes any components currently in inventory. All pipes, pipe fittings, and pipe components must be certified as to meeting the National Standard NSF 61, Section 4. Plumbing fittings, plumbing fixtures, mechanical plumbing devices, and all endpoint devices must comply with National Standard NSF 61, Section 9.