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Beginning January 2014, USA Federal Law Will Require That ALL Faucets Be Replaced with "Lead-Free" Compliant Products





A wake-up call was sent to Americans when President Obama recently signed legislation mandating that all plumbing fixtures and faucets that dispense drinking water be replaced with lead-free compliant products effective January 4 of 2014.

While this will affect the entire United States, most of the public has been uneducated about the dangerous effects of lead in drinking water and what, if anything, they can do about it. Fortunately, we at Castle Bay have been proactively one step ahead of the headlines, and we're proud to be the pioneer of stainless steel construction faucets, and leading the way to a greener and leadfree environment. We recognize that home owners may have questions, and Castle Bay has the answers.

Excessive exposure to lead may cause anemia, kidney disease, reproductive disorders, and in some cases, coma or death. Children under the age of 12 are the most at risk from lead poisoning, which, in addition to the above-mentioned diseases, could also result in memory loss, schizophrenia, and other neurological problems.



"What is the new lead free legislation?"

On January 4, 2014 Federal Law mandated that the wetted surface of every pipe, fixture, and fitting sold for or installed in potable water applications not contain more than 0.25% lead by weight.

After January 2014, all American schools, businesses and homes will have faucets that are effectively obsolete due to the new law's strict requirements.

"As a supplier, what is my liability? And what exactly does compliance mean?"

The short answer is yes. Lead is a component of brass and brass is used in the overwhelming majority of water faucets and fittings. Lawmakers have known this fact for many years, and have passed laws, designed standards and adopted plumbing codes to regulate the acceptable amount of lead that may leach out of faucets into potable drinking water and the acceptable percentage of lead that a faucet may be comprised of. Even though lawmakers and government officials have been aware of lead's health effects for some time, the severity of these effects have only come to light recently.

"Are my children going to

a school that allows lead... what about my house?"

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On January 4 2014, it will be illegal to sell products that dispense water for human consumption that do not meet the Federal leadfree legislation. Currently the law states that faucets, fittings, replacement parts must not contain more than 8% lead. The NEW lead free law brings this number down to less than .25%. The law expressly notes that the less than .25% standard be applied not only to the faucets themselves, but to the

fittings and replacement parts as well.

Is there similar leadfree law in Canada?

With the introduction of the leadfree legislation in the U.S. and its effective date of January 4, 2014, Health Canada addressed the issue by working with the third party agency such as ASME and CSA standards committees to make amendments to the materials section of the standard to reflect the new 0.25% weighted average lead content requirement through the codes and standards system.

"Why choose stainless steel over brass?"

As everyone takes steps to create an eco-friendly healthier kitchen they often forget the importance of choosing the right faucet. Lead is rarely found in

source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Most faucets in the market are actually made of "brass" and are electroplated in various tones and colors.

Stainless steel is anti-corrision and 100% lead free. In addition, stainless steel is 100% recyclable which reduces waste in our environments, and good for sustainable development

"What is the impact on BRASS faucet manufacturers?"

Today's brass or bronze products are "low-lead," meaning they have a maximum lead content of 8 percent. The lead performs three critical functions – it makes brass easier to machine, it improves cold working properties for forging and reduces porosity, filling minute voids.

As of January 2014, the maximum lead content for the wetted surfaces of potable water fittings is being reduced from 8 percent to 0.25 percent. Manufacturers have had to make changes to materials, product design and manufacturing processes.

At Castle Bay, we believe solid stainless steel material construction faucet is the best compliance solution to the new lead free legislation.

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Safer Drinking Water From Lead Free Faucets



"What is Castle Bay doing to help me?... And what makes them different than other manufacturers?"

Castle Bay has already developed Stainless Steel, lead-free faucets that are in full compliance with the new law and are ANSI/NSF 61, 9 certified. As the pioneer manufacturer in Canada to carry lead free compliant faucets, we've invested untold hours into research and design. In short, think of us as your go-to source for all lead-free compliant faucets.

At Castle Bay, we have invested untold hours into research and design, and our commitment to the environment has led us to use solid stainless steel.

We could have chosen the other compliance options, but we are searching for the best solution. Here's why:

Coating Method (applying special coatings inside the brass faucets)

- Lead is still in the faucets
- Lead is still mined, smelted
- Lead is still ends up in our landfills

NON-PROVEN MATERIALS or other copper based lead-free materials

- They require decorative finishes and chrome plating
- Harmful chemicals, i.e., acid, is used in the plating process
- Harmful chemicals must be disposed

At Castle Bay, we are committed to provide you with the best solution. If lead is not in the product in the first place, it won't be in the production process, landfills, water ways, recycled material, and most important YOU.

We believe education is key to bring the awareness to people about the issue of lead. Because in the end, this is just as much about the bigger picture, our world at large, as it is our faucets and our water.