



CIPH Position Statement

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Low-Lead Regulation of Plumbing Products

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating supports the recently enacted Lead Reduction Act of the USA, a law that will require all plumbing products in the USA to comply with a 0.25% lead content by wetted surface by January 2014. This legislation harmonizes policy across all 50 states and the CIPH advocates for harmonized regulations and policy across the Canada-USA border.

CIPH urges Canadian regulators to consider a strategy that will align Canadian lead content guidelines and timelines with the January 5, 2014 effective date stated in the American legislation. Uniform requirements and effective dates in both countries will help to protect the health and safety of the public by preventing any potential for dumping of non-compliant product. It will also provide Canadian manufacturers a clear strategy for developing products that will be compliant for both domestic and export markets.

The Canadian Standards Association has announced the creation of a Task Force to work on adopting similar 0.25% low-lead specifications and to propose requirements and definitions for inclusion into ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 and B125.3 Standards for Plumbing Fittings. Manufacturer compliance to lead-content requirements can be demonstrated through certification to the referenced standards.

CIPH fully supports integrating low lead requirements into the appropriate technical standards as this approach places the adopted lead content criteria into a system that is already well understood by the manufacturers and regulators responsible for manufacture, importation and enforcement of products under these standards.

The Provinces and Territories currently follow the Model National Plumbing or Building Codes which reference the technical standards for plumbing products. CIPH believes that all provinces should be directed to adopt any updated codes and fully utilize their present authority to eliminate the sale and installation of non-compliant product from the Canadian marketplace. Comprehensive application of existing enforcement models will remove the need for any new Canadian federal regulation pertaining to lead content in plumbing products.

CIPH encourages the appropriate federal departments including Industry Canada and Health Canada to work together and to work with the Provinces and Territories to ensure that timing of such code adoption in Canada will coincide with implementation of the similar American legislation.



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