

Instructions for LCR Failure to Maintain Corrosion Control Treatment Technique -- Lead

Template on Reverse

Since lead and copper treatment technique violations are included in Tier 2, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation [OAR 333-061-0042(3)(b)]. You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists.

Community systems must use one of the following methods [OAR 333-061-0042(3)(b)(E)]:

- C Hand or direct delivery
- C Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-Transient Non-community systems must use one of the following methods [OAR 333-061-0042(3)(E)]:

- C Posting in conspicuous locations
- C Hand delivery
- C Mail

In addition, both community and non-transient non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [OAR 333-061-0042(3)(E)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory [OAR 333-061-0042(4)(d)].

Explaining the Violation

If the problems in meeting treatment technique requirements for lead corrosion control are related to outside circumstances, such as funding, you should explain these. Consumers may be more supportive of rate increases or may pressure local authorities to provide funds if they understand the circumstances.

This template is written for all systems that are required to maintain corrosion control after exceeding lead action levels. The Lead and Copper Rule requires that you provide notice to your users regarding inconsistent corrosion control treatment. This notice is required whenever a system has more than nine excursions [days when the minimum water quality parameter (s) are NOT met] during any six-month period. The following may help you explain the violation:

- C This is a treatment violation, but it does not mean there is lead in your drinking water. Lead levels at your tap may have been elevated during one or more days during the last six-month period. However, it is important that we take measures to control lead levels in the water, because ingesting lead may cause serious health consequences.

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Use the following language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- C We conducted a lead public education program in [month, year]. You should have received a brochure explaining in more detail steps you can take to reduce exposure until corrosion control is in place.

If consumers ask for information on testing their water, you should have on hand the names of laboratories consumers can call. Tell consumers to call NSF International at 1(800) NSF-8010 or the Water Quality Association at 1(800) 749-0234 for information on appropriate filters. For more information on lead, have consumers call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791 or the National Lead Information Center Hotline 1(800) LEAD-FYI.

Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice [OAR 333-061-0040(1)(h)].

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

[System] Water May Contain Higher Levels of Lead

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead. The tests show lead levels in the water above the limit, or action level, so we installed corrosion control treatment [date]. This treatment helps prevent lead in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the last six-month period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our corrosion control system. On [months and days], we failed to meet our minimum [specific water quality parameter with set minimum].

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- \$ Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- \$ Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- \$ Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.
- \$ Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- \$ **Do not boil your water to remove lead.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead more concentrated and the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason; however, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What happened? What is being done?

[Describe corrective action.]

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Corrosion control treatment is now functioning properly and meeting all the requirements.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by [system]. State Water System ID#: _____. Date distributed: