

Chapter 143

(House Bill 1268)

AN ACT concerning

Business Occupations and Professions – Plumbers – Lead-Free Materials

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “lead-free” to include a certain standard for individual plumbing fittings and fixtures; allowing for a stricter federal standard for lead-free plumbing fittings and fixtures and pipes and pipe fittings; clarifying which pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures are considered when calculating weighted average lead content; and generally relating to the lead content of materials used in plumbing.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 12-101(a) and (q)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 12-101(h-1) and 12-605.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

12-101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(h-1) “Lead-free” means:

(1) containing not more than 0.2% lead for solder and flux;

(2) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,** containing not more than:

(1) 4% LEAD BY DRY WEIGHT FOR INDIVIDUAL PLUMBING FITTINGS AND FIXTURES; OR

(II) 8% lead by dry weight for **INDIVIDUAL** pipes and pipe fittings;

(3) containing a percentage of lead for plumbing fittings and fixtures that is in compliance with standards established under 42 U.S.C.A. § 300g–6(e) of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; and

(4) containing not more than a weighted average lead content of 0.25% for the wetted surfaces of a pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture intended to dispense water for human consumption through drinking or cooking.

(q) “Weighted average lead content” means a calculation determined by:

(1) identifying each component of a pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture that water flows through and comes into contact with during normal operation;

(2) identifying the percentage lead content of each component of the pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture;

(3) determining the wetted surface area of each component of the pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture;

(4) determining the percent of total wetted surface area of the pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture, represented in each component;

(5) calculating the contributing percent lead for each component that comes into contact with water by multiplying the percentage of lead content of the component by the percent of total wetted surface area represented by the component; and

(6) calculating the sum of each contributing percent lead value determined for each component under item (5) of this subsection.

12–605.1.

(a) In the installation or repair of plumbing intended to dispense water for human consumption, a person shall use only pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, or fixtures that are lead-free.

(b) In the installation or repair of plumbing intended to dispense water for human consumption, a person shall use only solder or flux that is lead-free.

(c) ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL PIPES, PIPE FITTINGS, PLUMBING FITTINGS, OR FIXTURES THAT ARE INSTALLED OR REPAIRED MAY BE CONSIDERED WHEN CALCULATING THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE LEAD CONTENT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2012.