

SUMMARY

On June 7, 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its final Lead and Copper Rule. That final rule fulfills a statutory requirement of the 1986 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The 1986 amendments establish a list of 83 contaminants which EPA must regulate. Lead and copper are among those contaminants. Promulgation of the state's Lead and Copper Rule was necessary to comply with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act. State regulations at least as stringent as the federal rule were necessary for Pennsylvania to maintain primary enforcement responsibility (primacy) under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The state's Lead and Copper Rule became effective December 24, 1994. This rule applies to all community and nontransient noncommunity water systems and classifies systems based on the population they serve.

SYSTEM	POPULATION
<i>Large</i>	>50,000
<i>Medium</i>	3,301 to 50,000
<i>Small</i>	<3,301

The primary objective of this rule is to control lead and copper levels in public drinking water systems through a treatment technique for corrosion control.

The rule establishes a lead action level of **0.015 mg/L** and a copper action level of **1.3 mg/L**. An action level is not an MCL. It represents a level at which the system must take additional action under its control to reduce lead or copper levels and inform consumers about the actions they can take to lower exposure to lead in drinking water.

CONTAMINANT	ACTION LEVEL (mg/L)*
Lead	0.015
Copper	1.3
<i>*Measured in 90th percentile at taps</i>	