

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Lead-Content Law to Affect Groundwater Industry**

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) urges water well system contractors to begin purchasing and inventory management planning to comply with a new law to reduce the lead content allowed in pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures.

Back inventory of products not meeting the definition of lead-free under the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act can no longer be used after January 3, 2014, unless the product is exempted under the law.

The Act changed the definition of lead-free to mean not containing more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures. As of January 4, 2014, no person may introduce into commerce or use any pipe, or any pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption, that is not lead-free under this new definition.

The definition of lead-free solder and flux – 0.2% lead – was not affected by the Act.

Jeffrey W. Williams, MGWC, CVCLD, vice president of Spafford & Sons Water Wells in Jericho, Vermont, said he spent 14 months reducing his on-hand materials prior to implementation of a state law lowering lead limits. Even so, he reports he still had 15% of his product inventory that didn't comply with that state's law.

"From my experience, it certainly helps to start the transition process early to prevent any future issues," Williams said. "I believe we as an industry need to be as proactive as possible in preparing for this new law and the rules that follow."

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rulemaking is expected to provide additional guidance on the new law's implementation, although final rule publication is considered highly unlikely until after the law's implementation date. Topics that may be addressed through rulemaking include:

- How repair of components will be treated
- Whether and what product labeling may be mandated
- Clarification on the scope of coverage and the scope of exemptions
- Whether and through what process product certification, third-part or otherwise, may be required.

NGWA members can learn more on [www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org) by looking under "Member exclusive content" and clicking on the frequently asked questions regarding the lead-content law.

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