

Guidance on Lead and Copper Testing Notification for Drinking Water Systems

TDEC Rules for Public Water Systems require that all systems deliver a consumer notice of lead tap water monitoring results to persons served by the water system at sites that are tested:

0400-45-01-.33(6)(e)

(e) Notification of results.

1. Reporting requirement. All water systems must provide a notice of the individual tap results from lead tap water monitoring carried out under the requirements of paragraph (7) of this rule to the persons served by the water system at the specific sampling site from which the sample was taken (e.g., the occupants of the residence where the tap was tested).

2. Timing of notification. A water system must provide the consumer notice as soon as practical, but no later than 30 days after the system learns of the tap monitoring results.

3. Content. The consumer notice must include the results of lead tap water monitoring for the tap that was tested, an explanation of the health effects of lead, list steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water and contact information for the water utility. The notice must also provide the maximum contaminant level goal and the action level for lead and the definitions for these two terms from Rule 0400-45-01-.35.

4. Delivery. The consumer notice must be provided to persons served at the tap that was tested, either by mail or by another method approved by the Department. For example, upon approval by the Department, a non-transient non-community water system could post the results on a bulletin board in the facility to allow users to review the information. The system must provide the notice to customers at sample taps tested, including consumers who do not receive water bills.

Attached is an example notice that may be used as a template.

Example Customer Notice:

Thank you for participating with **(enter name of water system here)** in the monitoring of tap water. Your test results at the tap are: lead _____ mg/L (ppm), and copper _____ mg/L.

The maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for lead is zero mg/L. It is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L. It is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. The consumer can reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water by the following:

- (I) Run the cold water 15 to 30 seconds to flush out the water in the faucet body and home plumbing. This is the source of lead in almost all drinking water from a home tap.
- (II) Drink and cook with cold water only, especially do not use hot water for preparing baby formula.
- (III) Please note that boiling water does not reduce lead levels.

For more information call the water utility at **(enter water system phone number here)** .
(enter name of water system here, with PWS-ID) (i.e. Tennessee Utilities, TN0000000)