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NSF Continues to Develop Test Protocol for Low-Lead Product

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) and the Canadian Water Quality Association (CWQA) continue to work with the NSF Standard 61 (Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects) Lead Task Group to develop a test protocol. The protocol will allow for product certification to a new annex in the standard.

In January, NSF announced that it had developed a new compositional standard (annex G) for product that comes into contact with drinking water. The addition will allow manufacturers to be able to have their product certified ensuring that the weighted average lead content of the wetted surface area is below 0.25%. This product certification will be required in California and Vermont by January 1, 2010. Other jurisdictions in the US are considering adopting similar requirements.

“The Lead Task Group is currently working with the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to ensure an appropriate verification methodology is developed that will be acceptable to both certification bodies and the jurisdictions that will be enforcing the state regulations,” shared Kevin Wong, CWQA’s Executive Director.

Meanwhile, manufacturers are adapting their product lines to meet low-lead requirements.

There are currently no regulations in Canada that require low-lead products. Jason Bourque of CIPH believes that Canada will not need to create new regulations similar to those being developed in the US. He explained, “Manufacturers are phasing production of their North-American product lines to meet the US requirements. As a result, low-lead plumbing products for drinking water will end up being the norm in North America, with or without Canadian regulations. Health Canada has been an active participant on the NSF Lead Task Group and understands this transition is already underway.”

For more information on Standard 61 and the new annex, please visit NSF’s website: www.nsf.org/info/wdsfaq/index.asp.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today’s competitive environment. More than 260 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers’ agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$4.6 billion annually.



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