

Corrections to the Public Education Requirements for Lead Tap Water Monitoring Results

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-061-0034(5) requires that any water system exceeding the lead action level in tap water samples collected in accordance with OAR 333-061-0036(2)(d)(A) through (E) deliver public education materials to people served by the water system.

These rules recently changed, and these corrections are meant to clarify some minor discrepancies that exist between our currently adopted administrative rules and the rules that will be adopted in June 2009.

- OAR 333-061-0034(5)(a)(F) requires that water systems include specific contact language in their public education materials. The following language must be included exactly as written except for the system specific information within the braces. The first line is for all water systems, and the second line is added for water systems that maintain a web site.
 - For more information, call us at {INSERT YOUR PHONE NUMBER}.
 - or visit our web site at {INSERT YOUR WEB SITE}.
- The following information should be included in all public education materials, exactly as written:
 - For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.
- Here is an example paragraph for an imaginary City-x:
 - For more information, call us at 555-555-5555, or visit our web site at www.ci.city-x.or.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

- In OAR 333-061-0034(5)(c)(B)(i) through (vi), each of the paragraphs should require that community water systems meet the requirements of OAR 333-061-0034(5)(a) and (5)(b). These two subsections are included below for reference.
 - (a) Content of written materials. Community and non-transient non-community water system(s) shall include the following elements in all of the printed materials it distributes through its lead public education program in the same order listed below. Paragraphs (5)(a)(A), (B) and (F) of this rule must be included in the materials exactly as written except for the text in braces in these paragraphs for which the system must include system-specific information. Any additional information presented by a system shall be consistent with the information below and be in plain language that can be understood by the general public. Water systems must submit all written public education materials to the Department prior to delivery.
 - (A) IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER. {INSERT NAME OF WATER SYSTEM} found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.
 - (B) HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD: 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 the 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.
 - (C) SOURCES OF LEAD:
 - (i) Explain what lead is.
 - (ii) Explain the possible sources of lead in drinking water and how lead enters drinking water. Include information on home/building plumbing materials and service lines that contain lead.
 - (iii) Discuss other important sources of lead exposure in addition to drinking water (e.g., paint).
 - (D) STEPS THE CONSUMER CAN TAKE TO REDUCE THEIR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:
 - (i) Encourage running the water to flush out the lead.
 - (ii) Explain concerns with using hot water from the tap and specifically caution against the use of hot water for preparing baby formula.
 - (iii) Explain that boiling water does not reduce lead levels.
 - (iv) Discuss other options consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, such as alternative sources or treatment of water.
 - (v) Suggest that parents have their child's blood tested for lead.
 - (E) Explain why there are elevated levels of lead in the system's drinking water (if known) and what the water system is doing to reduce the lead levels in homes/buildings in this area.

- (F) For more information, call us at {INSERT YOUR NUMBER}, {if applicable include the following} or visit our web site at {INSERT YOUR WEB SITE HERE}. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.
 - (b) Community water systems must also:
 - (A) Tell consumers how to get their water tested;
 - (B) Discuss lead in plumbing components and the difference between low lead and lead free.
- OAR 333-061-0034(5)(c)(B)(v) requires that water systems provide specific information on or in each water bill no less than quarterly, as long as the system exceeds the action level for lead. The following language must be included exactly as written except for the system specific information within the braces. The first line is for all water systems, and the second line is added for water systems that maintain a web site.
 - {NAME OF WATER SYSTEM} found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call {INSERT NAME OF WATER SYSTEM}.
 - or visit our website at {INSERT YOUR WEB SITE HERE}.
- Here is an example paragraph for an imaginary City-x:
 - City-x found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call City-x, or visit our website at www.ci.city-x.or.us.
- OAR 333-061-0036(2)(d)(D)(iv)(III) allows a small or medium-size water system that meets the lead and copper action levels during three consecutive years of monitoring to reduce the frequency of monitoring for lead and copper from annually to once every three years. The next sentence of this paragraph should have included the word "lead" to read: "Any water system that meets the **lead** action level and maintains the range of values for the water quality control parameters reflecting optimal corrosion control treatment specified by the Department during three consecutive years of monitoring may reduce the frequency of monitoring from annually to once every three years if it receives written approval from the Department."

OAR 333-061-0036(2)(d)(D)(iv)(V) should include an additional sentence, near the end of the paragraph, as shown in the bolded text below:

...such a system may, with written Department approval, resume reduced annual monitoring for lead and copper at the tap after it has completed two subsequent six-month rounds of tap lead and copper monitoring that meet the criteria specified in paragraph (2)(d)(D)(iv)(II) of this rule. **This sampling shall begin during the calendar year immediately following the end of the second consecutive six-month monitoring period.** Such a system, with written Department approval, may resume reduced triennial monitoring for lead and copper at the tap if it meets the criteria specified in paragraphs (2)(d)(D)(iv)(III) and (VI) of this rule. Such a system may reduce the number and frequency of water quality parameter distribution tap samples required in accordance with paragraph (2)(d)(F)(vi)(I) and (II) of this rule. Such a system may not resume triennial monitoring for water quality parameters distribution tap samples until it demonstrates that it has re-qualified for triennial monitoring.