



Welcome to Merit Brass Company's informational section regarding NSF/ANSI Standard 61, Annex G; California AB1953, the new lead free requirement for California, and Vermont S.152, the similar legislation for Vermont. Both state legislations take effect on January 1, 2010.

Merit Brass Company has been a leading manufacturer and master distributor of brass nipples and fittings for over 70 years and we are dedicated to continuing our leadership position as the lead-free movement gains momentum across the country. We are proud to demonstrate our commitment to this philosophy by announcing that our pipe nipple manufacturing facility in Cleveland, Ohio is now fully certified to NSF/ANSI 61, Annex G, and that our partner manufacturers in the U.S.A, Thailand and Yugoslavia are either already certified or are in the process of becoming certified to all of the requirements of this specification. Fully compliant product is currently available in our Sparks, Nevada distribution center. Both import and domestic lead free brass threaded fittings are available and are distinguished by the "LF" markings on each piece and designated labeling on each carton. Additionally, our Nevada distribution center will continue to stock a complete range of standard leaded import and domestic brass fittings for non-potable water applications.

REFERENCE SITES:

- The actual governmental requirements may be found on http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrrm/lead_nsfstandard.html.
- NSF has a reference site at www.nsf.org & <http://www.nsf.org/Certified/Common/Company.asp?TradeName=BRA&CompanyName=MER&PlantState=&PlantCountry=&PlantRegion=&Program=LeadCert&CertLead=Y&search=SEARCH>.
- California Metals Coalition at <http://www.metalscoalition.com/> & www.metalscoalition.org
- www.metalcastinggov.com
- <http://www.leedcert.com/> & <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>

- <http://www.weareleadfree.net> & http://weareleadfree.net/pages/news_details.asp?id=45

Should you need additional information regarding the NSF/ANSI 61 standard, we have generated some frequently asked questions below. For additional assistance, please [contact us](#).

What does the NSF/ANSI Standard 61, Annex G mean?

This standard was developed to reduce the amount of lead products used in materials, components, products or systems that comes into contact with drinking water or drinking water treatment chemicals. The exact verbiage (as stated on www.nsf.org) of Annex G states that "This annex was developed to establish a lead content evaluation procedure for use when product is required to meet a $\leq 0.25\%$ weighted average lead content requirement as exists in California and Vermont effective January 1st, 2010." See also http://www.nsf.org/business/mechanical_plumbing/annexg.asp?program=MechanicalPluSysCom.

What is the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)?

The Safe Drinking Water Act (passed in 1974) is a federal law enacted to ensure that safe drinking water conditions for all Americans are being maintained. It is regulated by the EPA which sets the standards for SDWA. More specific information about this legislation may be found on <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html>.

How will I know if I am purchasing lead free product?

As stated in the introduction, both Merit's import and domestic brass threaded fittings will carry the marking "LF" and have unique part numbers. Additionally, the cartons will be marked with appropriate third party certification designations. While Merit's brass nipples do not contain individual markings, our cartons are labeled with the NSF logo.

Will other states follow California and Vermont in adopting the legislation regarding lead content?

It is more than likely that as time progresses, more and more states will pass into law similar legislation as California (Bill AB 1953 - http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/05-06/bill/asm/ab_1951-2000/ab_1953_cfa_20060818_134053_sen_floor.html) and Vermont (<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-152.HTM>).

California Bill AB 1953 changes the lead free requirements to a weighted average of no more than 0.25% lead content. This is effective January 1st, 2010. See also <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/LeadInPlumbing.cfm> .

How is the weighted average arrived at? By multiplying the lead content of each wetted component times the proportion of the total wetted surface area represented by that component and summing up the results

Vermont S.152 clearly states that plumbing products containing lead will be prohibited for sale effective January 1st, 2010 with a lead free requirement (to a weighted average) of no more than 0.25% lead content. This legislation does not require third party certification.

For an update on legislation currently being worked on to expand the No Lead requirements beyond Vermont and California, please review: <http://www.metalcastinggov.com/LeadInWater.asp> or www.weareleadfree.net .

Recently, Washington DC has authored similar legislation entitled DC B18-0452 due to go into effect January 1, 2011. See:

- http://www.weareleadfree.net/pages/news_details.asp?id=45
- <http://www.statesurge.com/bills/670217-b18-0452-washington-dc>

Will these products require any additional documentation?

An accredited, independent third party certification is required to sell these products in California (per Senate Bill 1334). A full list may be found on ANSI's website www.ansi.org.

How does Lead Free products play into LEED Certification?

LEED does not actually certify or rate "green" building products or building materials yet. However, the use of individual products may qualify a project to earn points towards a LEED Certification based on the characteristics of the specific products. For example, the greater the amount of recycled content a product contains could result in a greater reward based on a specific LEED Credit under the different LEED green building rating systems (such as Commercial Interiors, Core and Shell and Operations and Maintenance)."