



A Division of Paramount Supply Company



## IT'S THE LAW

*In 2011, the federal government amended the SDWA (Safe Drinking Water Act of 2008) effectively prohibiting the installation of any products that might have lead in them.*

*California, Vermont, Maryland and Louisiana have enacted similar legislation and the trend is international in scope.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

Because our **Gasket Shop** ships gaskets all across the country, we have no way of knowing where our gaskets will end up.

Effective **May 25, 2016**, in order to make sure that we are complying with the SDWA regulations, **Paramount Supply** will ship all *water meter gaskets* cut with **NSF61** certified materials.

(SEE BACK FOR LIST OF OTHER PRODUCTS AFFECTED)

Up until now, there hasn't been much gasket material that met the certification standard. That is changing as more vendors are providing certified materials.

**Paramount Supply** is proud to announce that we have the materials needed to comply. (If a customer does not want **NSF61** material, they must specify it in writing to us before we will ship the order.)

*THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!*



# The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) & The Environmental Protection Agency

January 4, 2011 President Obama signed legislation revising the definition of “lead free” within the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The tolerated lead content level was drastically reduced from 8% to a mere 0.25% per weighted average. This steep decline in acceptable levels of this contaminant impacted all manufacturers and distributors of joining and sealing components. A grace period of 36 months was granted to allow all entities working within the potable water industry to change their inventory over to a material that meets the new stricter standards. January 4, 2014, President Obama’s legislation went into full effect, ending the grace period. Since that date, it has been illegal to introduce products into commerce for drinking water applications unless they are tested and meet the new version of the lead-free standard. Standard rubber compounds used in gaskets and seals in potable water applications must be proven to prevent leaching or harmful contaminants prior to installation.

## Applications Impacted

- Public drinking water distribution including water storage, reservoirs, water meters, fire hydrants, and all individual components.
- Joining and sealing materials (gaskets, adhesives and lubricants)
- Mechanical devices (water meters, valves, filters)
- Pipes and related products (hose and fittings)
- Plumbing devices (faucets and drinking fountains)
- Process media (filter media and ion exchange fountains)
- Non-metallic potable water materials.
- Fire Hydrants: the latest legislation has removed the 15-year exclusion on these and now must be NSF61 compliant

## Risk Assessment

There are over 155,000 public water systems in the United States. More than 286 million Americans drink water from a community system daily. Water safety concerns are at an all time high. the SDWA is enforced state by state through the EPA. In recent years the public has become more aware of the potential hazards of drinking inferior water. Consequently, stricter and more refined testing procedures are constantly pursued and developed. The result is reduced liability for manufacturers and distributors of products that are tested and labelled as meeting those standards. The flip side of this coin are the severe consequences for those who choose to distribute substandard materials.

- Each state has a separate water quality enforcement, complicating compliance.
- State agencies can order removal of non-certified products and issue fines.
- Enforcement often occurs a the bidding stage, and compliant applicants get preference.
- the EPA posts violations and fines on their website identifying companies and individuals
- Compliance monitoring takes place via inspections, interviews, reports, photographing, taking samples, and observing site operations.