City of Los Angeles
Department of Building and Safety

The California State Health and Safety Code Section 116875, effective January 1, 2010, states in part and requires that, no person shall use any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, or solder or flux that is not lead free in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a facility providing for human consumption except when necessary for the repair of leaded joint of cast iron pipe

Assemblymember Wilma Chan, 16th District, the author of Assembly Bill 1953 (Chan, Chapter 853, Stats. 2006), which codified the low lead requirements for plumbing products, has published additional guidance about what she intended to be subject to the low lead requirement. Based on the plain language of the statute, the legislative history, and clarifying letter from Chan, the intent of the legislation is that the 0.25% lead content requirement would not apply to devices that can reasonably be described as not intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption. Such "exempt devices" include:

- Service saddles
- Back-flow preventers which protect/separate potable water systems from non-potable services such as irrigation, industrial and laboratory use
- Water distribution Main Gate Valves that are two inches (2") in diameter and above
- Fire Hydrants
- Fittings and valves for Wastewater Distribution Systems
- Decorative Fountains
- Marine applications
- Air and Vacuum appliances
- Bathtubs and bathtub faucets
- Showers, bath and shower valves, shower heads of all types and shower head adapters
- Roman Tubs and Roman Tub valves
- Sanitary Sewer Drains
- Irrigation Sprinklers

• Toilets, urinals, bidets and their fittings

• Faucets, fittings and fixtures for laboratory uses

• Utility, laundry and shampoo fittings

• Service sinks

• Whirlpools and Spa Therapy Pools

• Flexible plumbing connectors and flexible risers not intended for potable water applications (e.g. clothes washing machines, dishwashers)

• Hose Bibbs, fittings, tees and splitters

• Flush valves

• Solenoid valves

• Pre-rinse Assemblies for commercial kitchen use, that do not include an auxiliary spout or other outlet

Effective January 1, 2010, the State of California Lead Free Plumbing Law, Health and Safety Code becomes operative.

Upon review of the charging Section of AB 1953 (Section 116875 of the Health and Safety Code) and Section 94.604.10 of the 2008 Los Angeles Plumbing Code, it places the burden on the approved Listing Agencies for verification of compliance with this new law, for all fixtures and piping used to distribute potable water. LADBS Plumbing Inspection Staff will verify that all pipe, pipe or plumbing fittings or fixtures, solder or flux are listed by a Listing Agency, approved and recognized by LADBS, for testing and listing of product(s) to meet NSF/ANSI 61 ANNEX G, Section 116875 of the California Health and Safety Code.

Note: Plumbing products made from materials with compositions that do not require lead such as plastic and stainless steel are not required to meet NSF/ANSI 61 ANNEX G.

LADBS's enforcement and inspection procedures relative to AB 1953 (Section 116875 of the Health and Safety Code):

- Buildings for which building plans were accepted by the Department of Building and Safety and a fee paid prior to the effective date of Section 116875 of the Health and Safety Code (January 1, 2010) are exempt in accordance with Section 18938.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

If you have questions or need further clarification about this new law, you may wish to contact the California Building Standards Commission at its website listed below or call (916) 263-0916.

California Building Standards Commission website at: http://www.bsc.ca.gov