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## REDUCTION OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER ACT

### Public Law 111-380

In 2011, the United States Congress changed the way plumbing and irrigation supplies are manufactured and sold in the United States by significantly reducing the legal amount of lead in these parts.

The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act enacted on January 4, 2011 by the United States Congress, is the amended part of Section 1417 in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of the SDWA is to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. It places focus on all water intended or potentially intended for drinking use. Section 1417 states that “no person may use any pipe, any pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, any solder, or any flux, in the installation or repair of any public water system or plumbing in residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption that is not lead free.” It goes further to state that it is “unlawful for any person to introduce into commerce any pipe, or any pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture that is not lead free after August 6, 1998.

The SDWA law has since been amended and effective January 4, 2014, The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act now clarifies exemptions in the SDWA by indicating that the following products shall not apply to prohibitions:

*“... pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, or fixtures, including backflow preventers, that are used exclusively for non-potable services such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or any other uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption; or” ... “water distribution main gate valves that are 2 inches in diameter or larger.”*

As stated in the law, the definition of lead-free is as follows:

- Not containing more than 0.2 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux
- Not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures

Aqualine offers a variety of lead-free valves and fittings in accordance with SDWA law.



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## REDUCTION OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER ACT

### Public Law 111 -380

Category	Bills and Statutes
Collection	Public and Private Laws
SuDoc Class Number	AE 2.110: AE 2.110/3:
Law Number	Public Law 111-380
Date Approved	January 4, 2011
Full Title	An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce lead in drinking water.
Bill Number	S. 3874
Statutes at Large Citations	124 Stat. 4131 and 4132
United States Code Citations	42 U.S.C. 300g-6
Legislative History	LEGISLATIVE HISTORY--S. 3874:  CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 156 (2010): Dec. 16, considered and passed Senate. Dec. 17, considered and passed House.



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[From the U.S. Government Printing Office]

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Public Law 111-380

111th Congress

An Act

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce lead in drinking  
water. <<NOTE: Jan. 4, 2011 - [S. 3874]>>

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
United States of America in Congress assembled, <<NOTE: Reduction of  
Lead in Drinking Water Act.>> SECTION 1. <<NOTE: 42 USC 1201 note.>>  
SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ``Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water  
Act''.



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SEC. 2. REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER.

(a) In General.--Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42

U.S.C. 300g-6) is amended--

(1) by adding at the end of subsection (a) the following:

``(4) Exemptions.--The prohibitions in paragraphs (1) and (3) shall not apply to--

``(A) pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, or fixtures, including backflow preventers, that are used exclusively for nonpotable services such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or any other uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption; or

``(B) toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves, service saddles, or water distribution main gate valves that are 2 inches in diameter or larger.''; and

(2) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

``(d) Definition of Lead Free.--

``(1) In general.--For the purposes of this section, the term

`lead free' means--

``(A) not containing more than 0.2 percent lead when used

with respect to solder and flux; and



``(B) not more than a weighted average of 0.25

percent lead when used with respect to the wetted  
surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and  
fixtures.

``(2) Calculation.--The weighted average lead content of a pipe,  
pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture shall be calculated by  
using the following formula: For each wetted component, the  
percentage of lead in the component shall be multiplied by the  
ratio of the wetted surface area of that component to the total  
wetted surface area of the entire product to arrive at the  
weighted percentage of lead of the component. The weighted  
percentage of lead of each wetted component shall be added  
together, and the sum of these weighted percentages shall  
constitute the weighted average lead content of the product. The  
lead content of the material used to produce

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wetted components shall be used to determine compliance with  
paragraph (1) (B). For lead content of materials that are  
provided as a range, the maximum content of the range shall be  
used.''.

(b) <<NOTE: 42 USC 300g-6 note.>> Effective Date.--The provisions of  
subsections (a) (4) and (d) of section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water



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Act, as added by this section, apply beginning on the day that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Approved January 4, 2011.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY--S. 3874:

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 156 (2010):

Dec. 16, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 17, considered and passed House.