



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Horacio Tablada, Secretary  
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

TO: Community and Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems

FROM: MDE Water Supply Program, Lead and Copper in Drinking Water Division

DATE: July 19, 2022

RE: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions - Lead Service Line Inventory, Replacements, and Funding Information

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**WHAT?** The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), effective December 16, 2021, require all community and non-transient non-community water systems to develop an inventory to identify the material(s) of service lines connected to the public water distribution system. Both the publicly-owned and the privately-owned sides of the service lines must be included in the inventory. All service lines, regardless of the usage of the water and activity status, must be identified.

**WHEN?** All water systems must develop an initial inventory by **October 16, 2024**, and submit the inventory to the primacy agency (MDE) in accordance with 40 CFR § 141.90(e).

**WHERE?** The inventory must include all service lines connected to the public water distribution system regardless of ownership status (e.g., where service line ownership is shared, the inventory would include both the portion of the service line owned by the water system and the portion owned by the water customer).

**WHY?** In 2021, the federal Lead and Copper Rule was revised with the intent of providing greater protection of public health by reducing human exposure to lead and copper in drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the LCRR would go into effect on December 16, 2021, to support near-term development of actions to reduce lead in drinking water, such as the requirement for water systems to develop an inventory of lead service lines (LSL). At the same time, EPA is developing a new proposed rulemaking to strengthen key elements of the rule. The agency anticipates finalizing the forthcoming Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) prior to October 16, 2024, the initial compliance date in the LCRR.

Preliminary information regarding the LCRR can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/review-national-primary-drinking-water-regulation-lead-and-copper>

**HOW?** To facilitate this inventory, MDE has developed an electronic form (spreadsheet) to provide to water systems. The spreadsheet is currently under review and is planned to be sent to water systems after guidance from EPA is received (expected in the summer of 2022). The inventory will require the use of various verification methods to properly identify the materials of service lines in your water distribution system(s), which will range from visual inspections to record reviews and more.

In November 2021, the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#), more commonly referred to as [the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL](#), was signed into law. Under the BIL, each State will receive funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund for LSL identification, including assisting with the required inventory, and LSL replacement. MDE will assist water systems in obtaining BIL funding and will send a survey to water systems to gather information on current and planned efforts in developing inventories. Please note that according to the EPA, "**Any project funded under this appropriation must replace the entire LSL, not just a portion**, unless a portion has already been replaced." Full service line replacement will also be the goal of the LCRI. Also, please note that if your water system is a school, BIL funding is also available for the replacement of the interior/premise plumbing to reduce lead levels at the tap. MDE will begin soliciting projects in 2022, and MDE strongly encourages water systems to apply for funding in this first year for any known lead service lines or lead plumbing in schools (for schools that are public water systems).

Until EPA's guidance document is published and MDE provides the inventory spreadsheet, water systems should be taking several actions in preparation:

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN NOW:**

- Identify a point of contact or team from your water system that will lead this effort
- Assemble a plan for replacing any known lead service lines or school lead plumbing in schools that are public water systems so that applications for funding can be submitted in 2022
- Begin compiling existing plumbing codes/permits, maps, drawings, maintenance or installation records of all lines in your water distribution system
- Develop a plan/schedule to manage an effective timeline to complete the initial inventory by the due date **October 16, 2024**
- Read the information at the provided links to determine requirements and potential funding options

Please contact the Water Supply Program at 410-537-3729 or via email at [water.supply@maryland.gov](mailto:water.supply@maryland.gov) if you have any questions. Thank you.