

SUBJECT: Effective Date of the Lead Ban

SOURCE: Betsy Devlin

When was the lead ban effective? Was it effective on the date enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments (June 19, 1988), or on the date States must begin enforcing the ban (June 19, 1988)?

Response:

Section 1417(a)(1) of the SDWA Amendments states that the prohibition of "...any lead pipe, solder, or flux which is used after the enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986 shall be lead free..." (June 19, 1986 enactment). In addition, in a letter written by EPA Administrator Lee Thomas to Robert Kerrey, Governor of Nebraska (September 16, 1986), Mr. Thomas states that "Effective immediately, the use of certain lead solder, flux, and pipes in the installation and repairs of public water systems, and in residential or non-residential plumbing connected to a public water supply system, is prohibited."

Therefore, the lead ban was officially effective June 19, 1986.