

S. 3874: Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

Jan 4, 2011: Became Public Law No: 111-380.

Summary

S. 3874 amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt from prohibitions on the use or sale of lead pipes, solder, and flux:

- “Pipes or pipe or 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
- “Toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves, service saddles, or water distribution main gate valves that are two inches in diameter or larger.”

In addition, S. 3874 redefines "lead free" under the Safe Drinking Water Act to mean: (1) not containing more than 0.2 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux (current law) and (2) not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes and pipe and plumbing fittings and fixtures. Lastly, the bill establishes a formula to calculate the weighted average lead content of a pipe or pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture.