

## HSE advice for schools and crèches regarding lead (Pb) in drinking water

### Schools – Boards of management:

- Long-term exposure to low levels of lead in drinking water can have small health effects.
- This particularly relates to infants, young children and unborn babies but everyone should try to drink water with as little lead in it as possible.
- If there is lead in pipes or plumbing serving drinking water taps, there may be lead in the drinking water. Taps used for drinking water should be plumbed straight from the rising main.
- Owners of buildings where drinking water is available to the public are obliged to maintain the distribution system so that the water meets the legal requirements.
- The legal limit for lead in drinking water is 10 microgrammes per litre (ug/l).
- **However, it is best if there is no lead in the school drinking water.**
- The long term solution to lead in drinking water is to replace all lead pipes and plumbing.

### Crèches and pre-schools – owners and managers:

- Long term exposure to low levels of lead in drinking water can have small health effects.
- This particularly relates to infants, young children and unborn babies but everyone should try to drink water with as little lead in it as possible.
- If there is lead in pipes or plumbing serving drinking water taps, there may be lead in the drinking water. Taps used for drinking water should be plumbed straight from the rising main.
- Owners of buildings where drinking water is available to the public are obliged to maintain the distribution system so that the water meets the legal requirements.
- The legal limit for lead in drinking water is 10 microgrammes per litre (ug/l).
- If the level of lead in the drinking water in your building is above the legal limit, or if this is a possibility because of lead piping or plumbing, you should not use this water to make up infant formula.
- **However, it is best if there is no lead in the drinking water used in the crèche.**
- The long term solution to lead in drinking water is to replace all lead pipes and plumbing.

Further detail can be found in the:

HSE FAQs on Lead in Drinking Water <http://www.hse.ie/water>

HSE / EPA Lead Position Paper <http://www.hse.ie/water>