

10A NCAC 41C .1005 LEAD POISONING HAZARDS IN DRINKING WATER IN NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(a) For the purposes of this Rule, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) "Lead poisoning hazard" means as defined at G.S. 130A-131.7(7)(g).
- (2) "Testing" means the process described in Subparagraphs (b)(1)-(4) of this Rule.
- (3) "Remediation" means as defined at G.S. 130A-131.7(15).

(b) The following actions shall be taken to ensure that drinking water in public schools are free of identified lead poisoning hazards:

- (1) Responsible individuals at public schools shall complete a one-time test of all water outlets used for drinking or food preparation. The responsible individual shall provide documentation of testing results for review by the Department during routine sanitation inspections under Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2402(a).
- (2) Initial water samples shall be collected by the responsible individual and tested in accordance with Subparagraph (b)(3) of this Rule within 24 months after the effective date of this Rule.
- (3) The responsible individual shall collect samples and submit them for testing in accordance with guidance specified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in its publication, 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including any subsequent editions or amendments, and available free of charge at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water>. Notwithstanding the foregoing guidance, samples may be collected with a stagnation period of up to 72 hours. Samples shall be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health to analyze for lead in drinking water.
- (4) When a water sample is analyzed for lead content by a laboratory under this Rule, the laboratory shall notify the Department of the test results by electronic submission in alignment with the requirements of G.S. 130A-131.8.
- (5) When a public school receives test results from a laboratory indicating that a water sample collected by the responsible individual contains a lead concentration at or above the lead poisoning hazard level, the responsible individual shall:
 - (A) restrict access to any water outlet(s) used for drinking or food preparation that have lead concentrations at or above the lead poisoning hazard level;
 - (B) ensure that all students and staff have access to water free of cost that does not contain lead concentrations at or above the lead poisoning hazard level for drinking and food preparation; and
 - (C) continue to follow Parts (b)(5)(A) - (B) of this Rule until the Department determines in accordance with Subparagraph (b)(10) of this Rule that the water outlet(s) are not producing water lead levels at or above the lead poisoning hazard level and notifies the responsible individual and the Department of Public Instruction in writing of this determination.
- (6) If a water sample collected by the responsible individual reveals a water lead level at or above the lead poisoning hazard level then the requirement of Rule .1002(b)(1) of this Section shall be considered met.
- (7) Within five business days of receiving the test results of a water analysis that shows a water lead level at or above the lead poisoning hazard level, the responsible individual shall provide written notification of the test results to the parents or legal guardians of the children attending the public school and the staff of the public school in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency guidance specified in Subparagraph (b)(3) of this Rule.
- (8) Within five business days of receiving the test results of a water analysis that shows a water lead level at or above the lead poisoning hazard level, the public school shall make the test results available to the public, free of charge. The responsible individual may post test results to the public school's website to satisfy the requirement to make the test results available to the public.
- (9) Remediation of water outlet(s) producing water lead levels at or above the lead poisoning hazard level shall ensure that water produced is below the lead poisoning hazard level and may include replacement of service lines, pipes, and fixtures and the installation of filters at affected faucets. Within 30 business days from the date on which remediation is conducted under this Rule, the responsible individual shall submit the following information to the Program:
 - (A) the name and contact information of the responsible individual;

- (B) the name and address, including county, of the public school;
 - (C) the steps taken to remediate the lead poisoning hazard; and
 - (D) the date on which the remediation was completed.
- (10) Remediation shall not be considered complete until the Department conducts sampling at the water outlet identified to have a water lead level at or above the lead poisoning hazard level to confirm that the remediated water outlet is no longer producing water lead levels at or above the lead poisoning hazard level.

History Note: Authority S.L. 2021-180, s. 9G.8;
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