

2009:SB21

MEMORANDUM TO: School Business Officials

FROM: Nancy Whynot
Director, Capital Programs Branch

DATE: June 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Annual Water Testing for Lead: O. Reg. 243/07, and Reporting Expenses for the Provision of Alternative Drinking Water in Schools

Further to the memorandum **2008: B9**, I am writing to remind you of your on-going responsibilities for testing water for lead and flushing plumbing. We are now in the period for mandatory annual sampling and testing of school water systems for lead in drinking water. This is required by *Ontario Regulation 243/07 - Schools, Private Schools And Day Nurseries* under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

All school boards are required to submit their annual school water samples for lead testing between June 15, 2009, and August 15, 2009.

This is the third year of the program for testing water for lead and flushing plumbing. The annual water sampling and testing is an important component of assessing water quality. The purpose of this testing is to determine the quality of water in plumbing, and if necessary, ensure corrective actions, such as plumbing alterations or supplying alternative water are taken. Provincial results to date indicate flushing is an effective method for reducing lead in drinking water.

It is critical that samples are taken in accordance with the regulatory requirements. Both standing and flushed samples must be taken and analyzed and sample bottles must be clearly labeled to indicate whether they are standing or flushed. I ask that you bring a copy of this letter, and the resources described below, to the attention of staff in your board who will be undertaking lead sampling.

As you know, each school has been registered in the Ministry of the Environment's database Drinking Water Information System (DWIS) and each school has been assigned a unique DWIS number. This unique number allows your water test results to be uploaded to DWIS.

If you would like to confirm or identify your school's unique DWIS number please contact the Ministry of Environment's Drinking Water helpline at: 1-866-793-2588 (toll-free). Additional information on the DWIS is available on the *Drinking Water Ontario* website.

If you are adding or changing your licensed laboratory for this round of sampling please notify the Ministry of the Environment by submitting an updated *Laboratory Services Notification Form* (see attached) via email to reg170_formssubmission.moe@ontario.ca or by fax to 416-314-8716. The form is also available on the Ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater/261732.pdf

Information Resources

To support this annual water testing process, the Ministry of Environment has provided a variety of on-line information resources. These are described in the attached **Appendix – Online Information Resources**. I encourage you to review and use these resource materials.

After submitting water samples

After submitting water samples and receiving the results, please contact your local Ministry of the Environment office if you would like to discuss the sample results and any further steps that may be required.

Reporting expenses arising from the provision of alternative drinking water

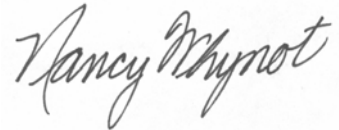
As noted in the memorandum of June 3, **2008:SB14**, school boards are expected to make alternative drinking water available in schools where drinking water test results exceed the standard of 10 micrograms of lead per litre after flushing. Alternative drinking water includes the costs for water dispensers, rental or purchase of water coolers, water filters, and paper cups in those schools.

The Ministry has committed to assessing the province-wide costs of alternative drinking water, including costs incurred in child care centres located in schools, and providing appropriate compensation. To facilitate the allocation of this funding, please find attached the *Reporting Template and Compliance Statement*. This template should be completed for costs incurred up to and including June 30, 2009, and sent to your Regional Office Manager of the Ministry of Education by July 15, 2009. This will enable the Ministry to make payments by August 20, 2009.

The next reporting period will cover July 1, 2009, to January 31, 2010, inclusive. Boards will be asked to submit those expenses by February 13, 2010, so that payments may be made by March 31, 2010.

For assistance on this matter, please contact Steven Mitchell, Capital Programs Branch, at 416-325-2015 or at steven.mitchell@ontario.ca or your regional office contact.

Thank you in advance for undertaking water testing for lead in your schools.



Nancy Whynot
Director, Capital Programs Branch
Ministry of Education

Attachments

- c: John Stager, Chief Drinking Water Inspector, Ministry of Environment
Superintendents of Business and Finance
Senior Plant Officials
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch, Ministry of Education
EDU Regional Managers

APPENDIX – ONLINE INFORMATION RESOURCES

1. Contacting a licensed laboratory to get your *water sampling for lead kit*

The Ministry of the Environment has provided a list of all laboratories licensed to test for lead in water on the Drinking Water Ontario website:

<http://www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater/271380.pdf>

The list of laboratories is also attached to this memo.

Should you have any questions about contacting a licensed laboratory, please contact the Ministry of Environment's Drinking Water helpline at 1-866-793-2588 (toll-free).

2. Sampling procedure

The Ministry of Environment has prepared a quick reference poster, *Sampling for Lead: At-a-Glance Guide for Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries*, that outlines the required steps in the water sampling process. This is the same poster that was sent to school boards this past winter. It may be viewed and downloaded from:

<http://www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater/178734.pdf>

A copy of this poster is also attached to this memo.

The Ministry of the Environment also provides a short instructional video on how to sample properly for lead in drinking water. This video can be viewed on-line at:

<http://www.ontario.ca/ONT/portal51/drinkingwater/General?docId=177450&lang=en>

To request a DVD copy of the video, contact the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923.

Should you have any questions about the sampling for lead in water procedure, please contact the Ministry of Environment's Drinking Water helpline at: 1-866-793-2588 (toll-free).

3. General information and support regarding water sampling for lead and O.Reg. 243/07:

The Ministry of the Environment operates the *Drinking Water Ontario* website:

www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater

All forms, instructions, guidelines, slide presentations and webcasts related to O.Reg. 243/07 may be accessed at the following specific URL. These resources include a webcast outlining regulatory requirements of Ontario Regulation 243/07 for publicly funded schools, which was conducted on May 27, 2008:

<http://www.ontario.ca/ONT/portal51/drinkingwater/General?docId=177450&lang=en>

List of Commercial Laboratories Licensed in Ontario to Test for Lead in Drinking Water

Laboratories Licensed To Test For Lead		
Laboratory Name	Shipping Address	Customer Service Contact
Bodycote-Accutest Laboratory	8-146 Colonnade Rd. Ottawa ON K2E 7Y1	Krista Quantrill, Drinking Water Coordinator Phone: 613-727-5692 Fax: 613-727-5222 Email: krista.quantrill@bodycote.com
Caduceon Environmental Laboratories - Ottawa East	2378 Holly Lane, Ottawa ON K1V 7P1	Greg Clarkin Phone: 613-228-1145 Fax: 613-228-1148 Email: gclarkin@caduceonlabs.com
AGAT Laboratories - Mississauga	5835 Coopers Avenue Mississauga ON L4Z 1Y2	Stephanie Mowat Phone: (905) 712-5100 Fax: (905) 712-5122 Email: mowat@agatlabs.com
AMEC Earth & Environmental Ltd.	160 Traders Blvd. East - Units 4 & 5, Mississauga ON L4Z 3K7	Cynthia Ridge Phone: 905-890-0785 Fax: 905-890-1141 Email: cynthia.ridge@amec.com
ALS Laboratory Group – Environmental Division (Waterloo)	60 Northland Road, Unit #1 Waterloo, ON L5N 2L8	Glenna Pike Phone: 519-886-6910 Fax: 519-886-9047 Email: glenna.pike@alsenviro.com
ALS Laboratory Group – Environmental Division (Thunder Bay)	1081 Barton Street, Thunder Bay ON P7B 5N3	Karen Rutledge Phone: 807-623-6463 Fax: 807-623-7598 Email: karen.rutledge@alsenviro.com
Maxxam Analytics Inc.	6740 Campobello Road Mississauga ON L5N 2L8	Sandra Gaudette Phone: 905-817-5700 Fax: 905-817-5777 Email: sandra.gaudette@maxxamalytics.com
SGS Environmental Services – Lakefield	185 Concession Street, Lakefield ON K0L 2H0	Diane Wingett Phone: 705-652-2006 Fax: 705-652-6441 Email: diane.wingett@sgs.com
Testmark Laboratories Ltd.	7 Margaret Street, Garson ON P3L 1E1	Mark Charbonneau Phone : (705) 693-1121 Fax: (705) 693-1124 Email: mark.charbonneau@testmark.ca
York-Durham Regional Environmental Laboratory	901 McKay Road, Pickering ON L1W 3A3	Jerry Mirsch Phone: 905-686-0041 ext 4304 or Renu Joshi ext 4325 Fax: 905-686-0664 Email: jerry.mirsch@region.durham.on.ca