

BARRY E.  *ALTER SR. CO.*

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Dear Customers,

As many of you are aware California Assembly Bill 1953 (AB1953) takes affect on January 1, 2010. This new legislation requires a reduction in the lead content of products to a weighted average lead content of not more than 0.25% in pipes, fixtures and fittings.

This Lead Reduction law states:

No person shall introduce into commerce, for use in California, any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting, or fixture intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption through drinking water or cooking that is not lead free.* This includes kitchen faucets, bathroom faucets, and any other end-use devices intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption through drinking or cooking.

*PLEASE NOTE: Use of the term 'lead free' varies between the new legislation in CA and VT, and in the current Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. In the new legislation for CA and VT only, starting in 2010, it will mean 0.25% or less (weighted average).

Although we believe that installing a replacement part into an existing fixture is not introducing lead into that fixture, it is our intention to manufacture all of our replacement parts that are used to convey or dispense water for human consumption with lead-free brass. We will begin running parts with lead-free "Eco Brass" by January 1, 2010. For those customers that do not sell in California or Vermont we will continue to sell the current product in stock until that entire product is used up, at which point we will begin shipping lead-free product to you as well. For those items that do not require lead-free brass (i.e. shower stems, shower heads, handles and other fittings) we will continue to use free-cutting "360 Brass" which contains 2.5% - 3.7% lead.

We are currently working on a new price list to cover those items that will be produced with the lead-free brass. We will do our best to keep the increases to a minimum, but be aware that the lead-free brass is about \$0.83 more per pound and harder to machine. In the meantime if you have any items that you are concerned about at this time, please send us a list of those items and we will respond immediately.

To order lead free product you will need to add a prefix of LF to the current part number. For example a Chicago unit with part number 465041 would be ordered as LF465041.

Barry E. Walter, Sr.
President
Barry E. Walter, Sr. Co.