

How to Identify Lead Free Certification Marks for Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux Used for Drinking Water



Definition of

Lead Free (40 CFR 143.12)

Under the Lead Free Rule, lead free means a product cannot contain more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of a pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture, and not more than 0.2% lead when used with respect to solder and flux.

Lead Free Certification Requirement

On September 1, 2020, EPA published the final regulation, *Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux for Drinking Water*. EPA made the conforming changes to existing regulations based on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011 and the Community Fire Safety Act of 2013 enacted by Congress.

As of September 21, 2023, EPA requires importers or manufacturers to certify that their pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, solder, or flux products meet the lead free requirements. If these products are not lead free, the Safe Drinking Water Act prohibits their use in the installation or repair of any public water system or any plumbing in a residential or non-residential facility providing water for human consumption. It also makes it unlawful to introduce them into commerce, including stocked inventories.

How do I know if a product is certified as lead free?

In the United States, there are currently eight American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies that provide product certification to the Safe Drinking Water Act lead free requirement for manufacturers of pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux used for drinking water. Each of these certification bodies has unique certification marks (registered trademarks) that they use to certify a multitude of drinking water products for various requirements.

What do the lead free certification marks look like?

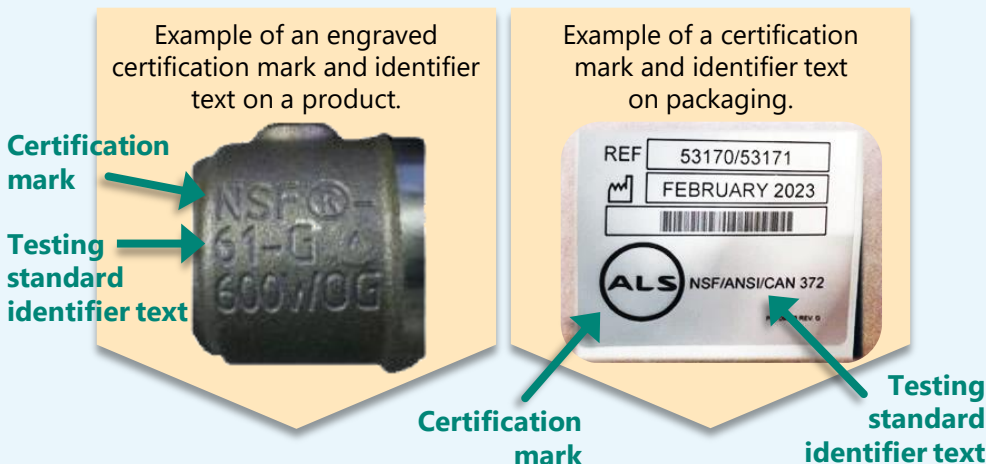
Each of the ANSI accredited third-party certification bodies require certain certification marks and identifier text for products meeting the lead free certification testing standards (**see tables on pages 3-4**). The marks indicate a pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting or fixture, solder, or flux meets the lead free certified requirement. Example photos of marks and text on product packaging are provided on pages 6-7. The box below indicates where the marks and identifier text will generally be located on products.

1. If required by a certification body, identifier text (see page 2) for lead free certification testing standards will be located near the certifiers' marks as free text or text enclosed in a box.



Identifier text indicating certification to one or more testing standards located to the left, right, above, or below the mark.

2. The certifiers' marks (see pages 3 and 4) will typically be located on the front or back of the packaging or engraved on the product itself.



Note: Some packaging and products may not bear the certification mark for a variety of reasons, including lack of space on small packaging or parts. In these cases, contacting the manufacturer is the best way to ensure that the product meets the lead free requirement.

Test Standards and Identifier Text of ANSI Accredited Third-Party Certification Bodies

Testing Standard	Identifier Text Required by the Certifier	What Certification to the Standard Indicates
NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 61 <i>Updated as of October 2017. See note below*</i>	NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 NSF/ANSI 61	NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 61 indicates that a product complies with EPA's lead free requirements, with solders and fluxes having a lead content $\leq 0.2\%$ and all other products conforming to a weighted average lead content of $\leq 0.25\%$ when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and plumbing fixtures. Additionally, it signifies that a product has met leachate requirements for contaminants (metals and non-metals).
NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 372	NSF/ANSI/CAN 372 NSF/ANSI 372	NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 372 indicates that a product complies with EPA's lead free requirements, with solders and fluxes having a lead content $< 0.2\%$ and all other products conforming to a weighted average lead content of $\leq 0.25\%$ when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and plumbing fixtures.
NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 61 and NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 372	NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 & 372 NSF/ANSI 61 & 372	NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 372 indicates that a product complies with EPA's lead free requirements, with solders and fluxes having a lead content $< 0.2\%$ and all other products conforming to a weighted average lead content of $\leq 0.25\%$ when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and plumbing fixtures. NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 61 indicates that a product has also met leachate requirements for contaminants (metals and non-metals).
Annex G	NSF/ANSI/CAN 61-G NSF/ANSI 61-G NSF-61/9-G	Annex G has been retired but may still be found on some manufacturers' products. It indicates that a product complies with EPA's lead free requirements, with solders and fluxes having a lead content $< 0.2\%$ and all other products conforming to a weighted average lead content of $\leq 0.25\%$ when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and plumbing fixtures. It will be included along with NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 61, which indicates that a product has met leachate requirements for contaminants (metals and non-metals).

*Important notes regarding NSF/ANSI/CAN Standard 61 and product markings

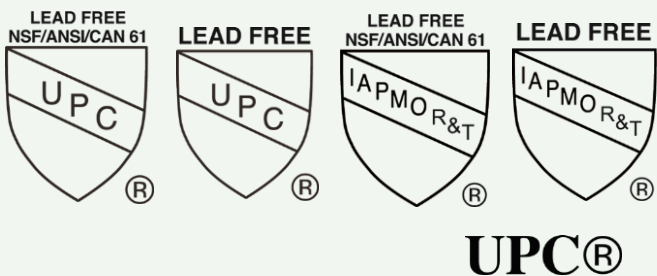
! In October 2017, NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 was updated to require compliance to NSF/ANSI/CAN 372 for all products other than those exempted in the Safe Drinking Water Act. Prior to this date, only NSF/ANSI/CAN 372, NSF/ANSI 372, or Annex G indicated compliance with the lead free requirement.

! There is potential for products manufactured prior to the update of NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 to be on store shelves or available online. In addition, some certification bodies still require text indicating certification to NSF/ANSI/CAN 372. If a product is marked as certified to NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 or NSF/ANSI 61 only, reviewing the data performance sheet, searching the certification body's online product listing directory, or contacting the certification body (see page 5) are the best ways to ensure that a product meets the lead free requirement.

Certification Marks for ANSI Accredited Third-Party Certification Bodies

Due to changes in the definition of "lead free" over time, consumers may encounter similar certifier marks that represent different eras of the "lead free" definition. To be certain of the requirements to which a product was tested, please refer to the important notes regarding NSF/ANSI Standard 61 and product markings on page 2 of this document.

**Intended Product Markets: C = Canada, US = United States*

Certification Body	Certification Marks	Identifier Text Required by the Certifier
ALS Global		Identifier text indicating certification to at least one of the NSF/ANSI/CAN standards must accompany the marks. A text only mark is used for products with size/design limitation. *Based on the intended product market, marks may be accompanied by a C & US.
CSA Group		Identifier text indicating certification to at least one of the NSF/ANSI or NSF/ANSI/CAN standards must accompany the marks. 'LLC' and 'Low Lead Content' signify compliance with NSF/ANSI/CAN 372. *Based on the intended market marks may be accompanied by a C and/or US.
IAPMO R&T		Identifier text indicating certification to at least one of the NSF/ANSI/CAN standards must accompany the marks. *Based on the intended product market, marks may be accompanied by a C.
ICC-ES		One of the certification marks is required to indicate certification to NSF/ANSI/CAN 372. For end point devices intended to dispense water for human consumption (Section 9), packaging is required to include identifier text indicating certification to NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 $Q \leq 1$.** *Based on the intended product market, the marks may be accompanied by a C.

***Consumers may see reference to a Q value (lead test statistic), which is part of lead leachate evaluation under NSF/ANSI/CAN 61.*

Certification marks continue on page 4

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Certification Body	Certification Marks	Identifier Text Required by the Certifier
Intertek	 	Identifier text indicating certification to the applicable NSF/ANSI or NSF/ANSI/CAN standard must accompany the marks. Marks are typically, but not limited to, black, blue, red, or gray coloration.
NSF	   NSF®-61 NSF®-372 NSF® pw NSF® pw-G NSF®-61-G	Identifier text indicating certification to at least one of the NSF/ANSI/CAN standards must accompany the marks. Legacy products may have text indicating certification to NSF/ANSI 61 and Annex G. <i>*Based on the intended product market, marks may be accompanied by a C & US or just a C.</i>
UL Solutions	  	The mark will be accompanied by Identifier text indicating certification to NSF/ANSI 372 or ALSO CERTIFIED TO NSF/ANSI 372. Unless lead content evaluation is exempted under the Safe Drinking Water Act, products certified against NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 also comply with NSF/ANSI/CAN 372. For these products, the mark will be accompanied by identifier text indicating certification to NSF/ANSI 61 or NSF/ANSI/CAN 61. <i>*Based on the intended product market, marks may be accompanied by a C or C & US.</i>
WQA	 	Identifier text indicating certification to standard NSF/ANSI/CAN 372 must accompany the marks, unless the product has been certified to the 2022 version of NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 or a later version of this standard. Contact WQA if you require confirmation that a specific product has been certified to the lead-free requirements. Marks can be either gold or black and white. <i>*Based on the intended product market, marks may be accompanied by a C & US or just a C.</i>

Resources and Contacts



Final “Lead Free” Rule

- ◆ Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux for Drinking Water
epa.gov/sdwa/use-lead-free-pipes-fittings-fixtures-solder-and-flux-drinking-water
- ◆ Questions and Answers About the Rule
epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-about-final-lead-free-rule

ANSI Accredited Third-Party Certification Bodies

Product listing directories and certification mark information
(QR codes are links to the product listing directories)



ALS Global

- ◆ Product listing directory
truesdail.com/product-listings-search
- ◆ Certification marks
truesdail.com/product-listings-2



Intertek

- ◆ Product listing directory
intertek.com/directories/etl-listed-mark
- ◆ Certifications marks
intertek.com/product-certifications/marks



CSA Group

- ◆ Product listing directory
csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing
- ◆ Certification marks
csagroup.org/testing-certification/marks-labels/csa-marks-labels-north-america



NSF

- ◆ Product listing directory
info.nsf.org/Certified/PwsComponents
- ◆ Certification mark
nsf.org/about-nsf/nsf-mark



IAPMO R&T

- ◆ Product listing directory
pld.iapmo.org
- ◆ Certification marks
iapmort.org/resources/marks-of-conformity



UL Solutions

- ◆ Product listing directory
productiq.ulprospector.com/en
- ◆ Certification marks
markshub.ul.com/information-and-requirements



ICC-ES

- ◆ Product listing directory
icc-es.org/pmg-listing-program/listing-directory
- ◆ Certification marks
icc-es.org/mark



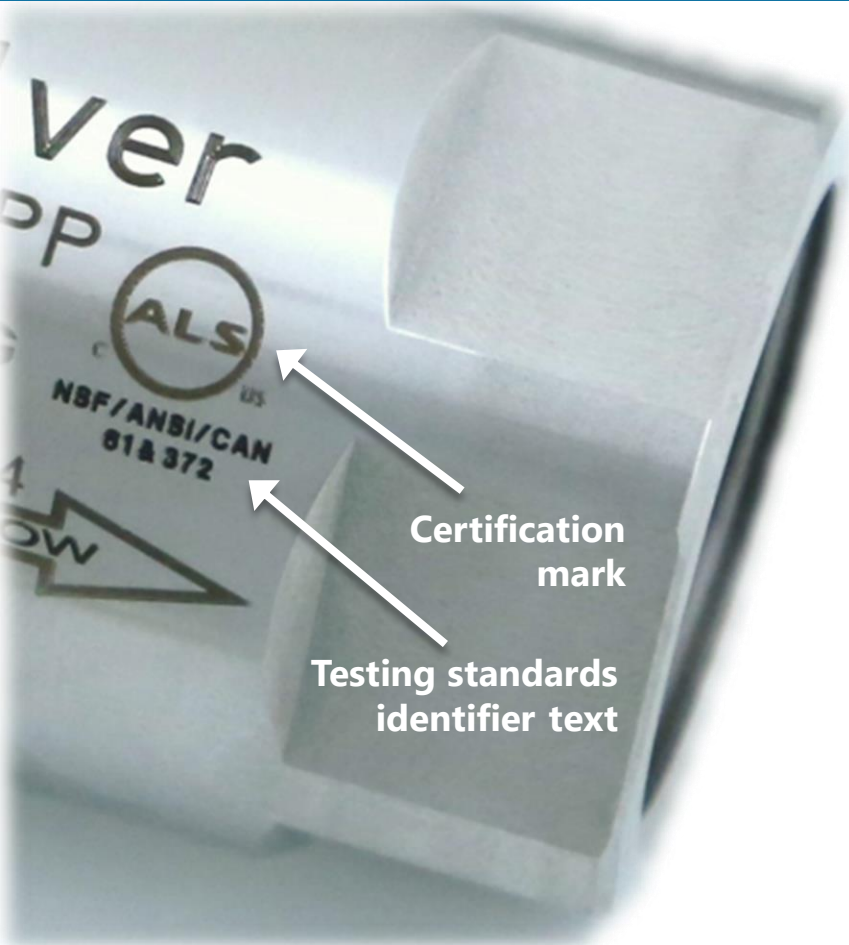
WQA

- ◆ Product listing directory
find.wqa.org/find-products#/
- ◆ Certification marks
wqa.org/grow/product-certification/logos-guidelines/

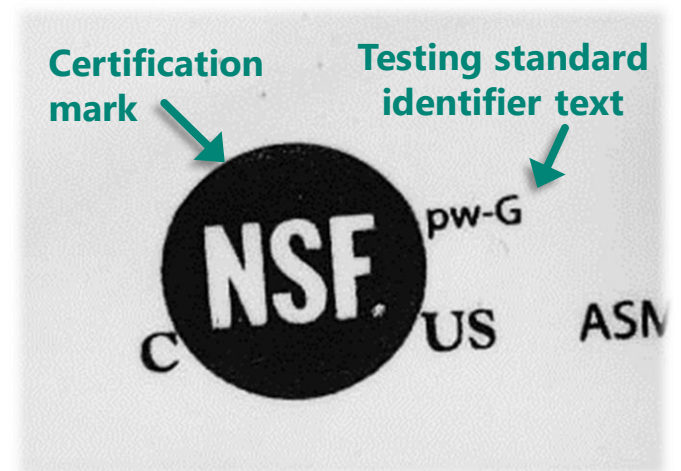
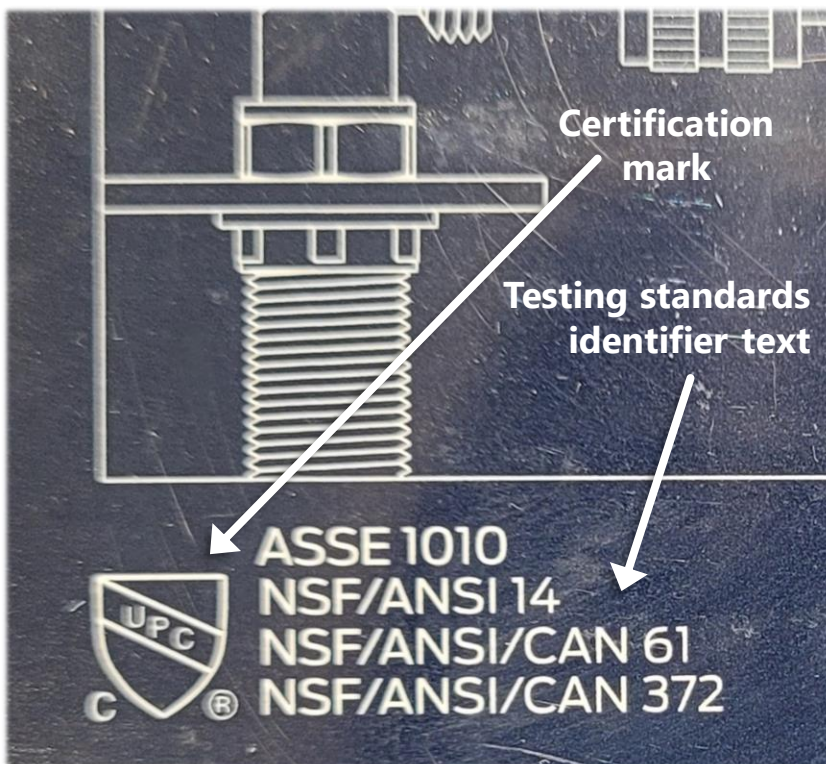
Questions?

- ◆ For questions regarding the lead content of a product: Contact the product manufacturer.
- ◆ For questions regarding this document: Contact Michelle Latham at latham.michelle@epa.gov.

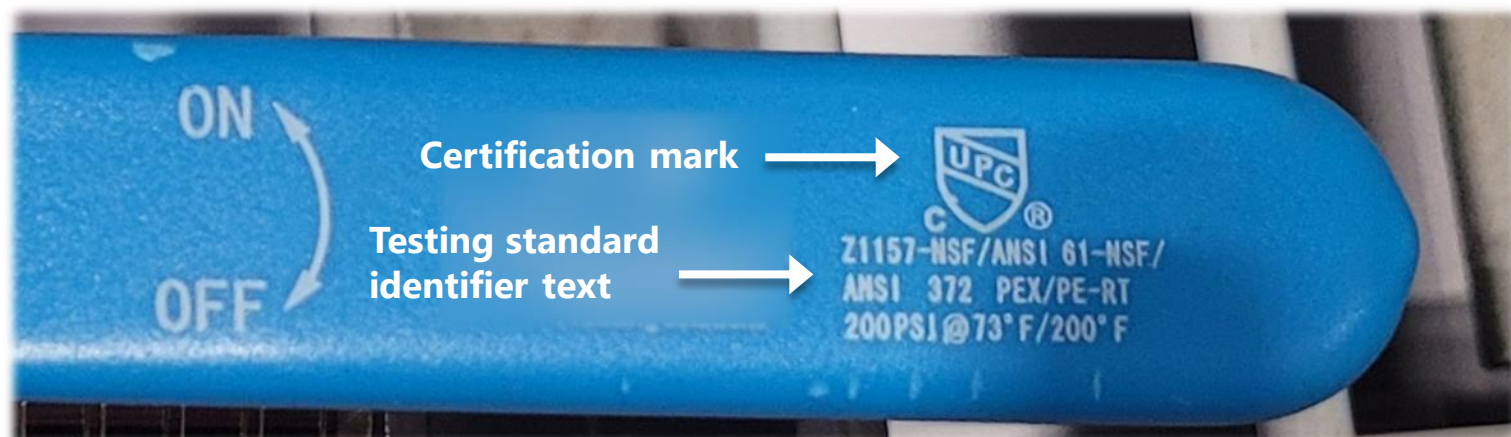
Examples of Certification Marks and Testing Standard Identifier Text on Products and Product Packaging



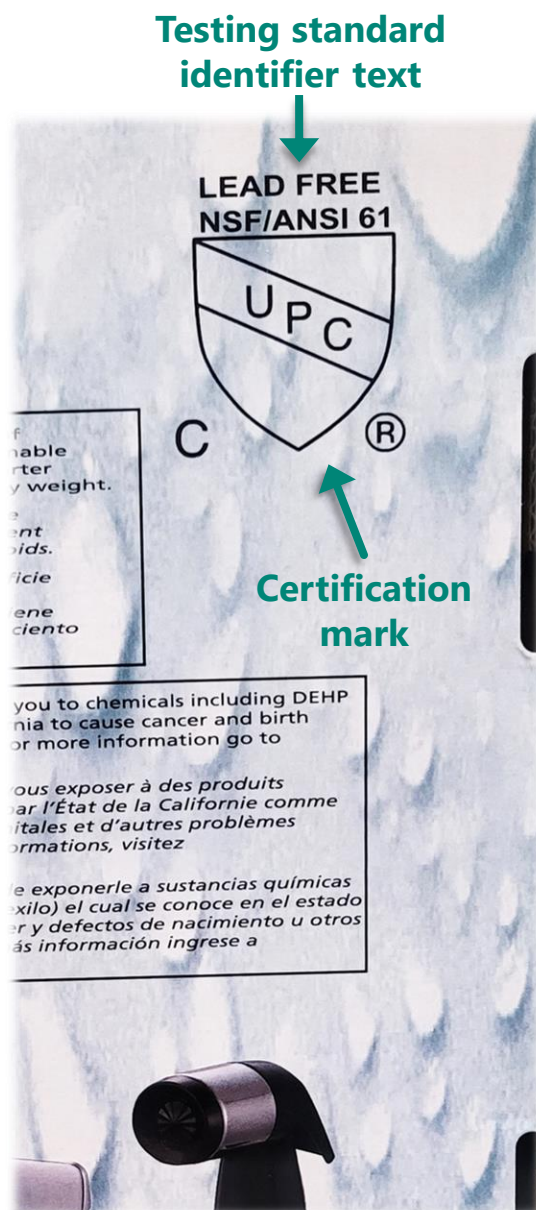
Note: Consumers may see reference to a Q value (lead test statistic), which is part of lead leachate evaluation under NSF/ANSI/CAN 61.



Examples of Certification Marks and Testing Standard Identifier Text on Products and Product Packaging



Certification mark



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