Operator Quiz Corner

Navigating the Lead and Copper Rule

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The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is undergoing its most significant transformation since its promulgation in 1991. These updates—categorized as the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)—introduce aggressive new mandates for inventorying, testing, replacing lead infrastructure and communicating with the public.

The key changes impacting Public Water Systems include:

- Lowering the lead Action Level from 0.015 mg/L to 0.010 mg/L
- Revised public education and notification language and timelines
- Development of a lead service line inventory
- Replacement program for all galvanized / lead service lines
- New sampling protocols at homes with known lead service lines
- Expanded testing at schools and daycare centers

MWWA will be offering two training sessions in June to help MA Public Water Systems better understand these changes and help ensure regulatory compliance.

6/3/26 - Session 1 [insert registration link]
Lead & Copper Rule Revisions and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, development of the Service Line Inventory (SLI), and case studies of completing the SLI.

6/24/26 -Session 2 [insert registration link]
Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP), public notification, using the "Smartform" and a case study of lead service line replacements.

1) What is the difference between the sample collection protocols for most contaminants versus the sampling protocol for lead and copper?
   a) The faucet aerator should not be removed
   b) The sample can be collected by someone other than an employee from a public water system or laboratory.
   c) The sample tap is not allowed to run for a period of time before filling the sample bottle.
   d) The sample is collected from a homeowners inside tap
   e) All of the above

2) For a water system that collects 100 residential samples for lead and copper which of the following best describes what is used to determine compliance with the "Action Level"?
   a) The average of all 100 samples
   b) Arranging the samples in order from highest to lowest and picking the 10th highest result.

c) The highest sample result after discarding any samples that were not collected properly.
d) Calculating the median value, which is the middle result, when all values are placed in order from highest to lowest.

3) What is the maximum amount of time water is allowed to remain stagnant in the building plumbing prior to collecting a sample for lead and copper?
   a) 6 hours
   b) 12 hours
   c) 24 hours
   d) There is no maximum amount of time
   e) Depends on the building's year of construction and the length of the service line.

4) True or false? Homeowners can collect a sample from a single-lever kitchen faucet.
   a) True
   b) False

5) A 90th percentile lead result of 0.012 mg/L can also be expressed as_____
   a) 0.012 ug/L
   b) 1.2 ug/L
   c) 12 ppm
   d) 12 ppb