

30 April 2026

Tēnā koe,

Reminder: Lead-free and DZR copper alloy requirements by 2 May 2026

From **2 May 2026**, to meet the acceptable solution for consent, copper alloy plumbing products in contact with drinking water that are sold in New Zealand must be both lead-free and dezincification resistant. This is an important public health measure to protect drinking water and support safe, healthy homes. From **2 May 2026**, plumbing products must meet the new lead-free requirements, providing certainty for consumers and the building sector. Amendment 14 to G12 Acceptable Solution 1 introduces these new requirements for plumbing products from **2 May 2026**:

- Maximum lead content: Any copper alloy product used in contact with drinking water must contain no more than 0.25% lead. This includes pipe fittings, valves, taps, mixers, water heaters and water meters.
- Dezincification resistant (DZR) copper alloy requirement: Any copper alloy component that is in contact with drinking water and subject to hydrostatic pressure must be made from DZR copper alloy.

This change will not affect projects that have already been granted consents on or before **1 May 2026** or projects already under construction. For any replacement works using the Schedule 1 exemption, applicable plumbing products must meet the Building Code at the time of installation.

How do manufacturers and suppliers demonstrate compliance?

- Ensure all products in contact with potable water meet the following or an equivalent standard:
 - NSF/ANSI/CAN 372:2020 (lead-free)
 - AS 2345:2006 (dezincification resistance)
- Provide IANZ-accredited test certificates or equivalent international certification to demonstrate compliance.
- Update product information and labelling to reflect compliance.
- Retailers and manufacturers are expected to phase out any products that do not meet lead-free and dezincification resistant requirements by **2 May 2026**.

What products do the lead-free requirements apply to?

The requirements apply to copper alloy plumbing products used in contact with potable water, including:

- pipe fittings
- valves (including isolation, backflow, pressure and temperature control valves)
- taps and mixers

- pipework
- fittings
- water meters
- pumps used for drinking water services
- water heaters
- residential water filtration equipment
- water dispensers (such as boiling and chilled water units)
- fire sprinkler systems connected to the cold-water supply where they are not isolated from drinking water fixtures.

Which products are excluded from the requirements?

The requirements do not apply to:

- showers for bathing
- emergency showers and eyewash equipment
- pumps used solely for irrigation, firefighting or nondrinking water purposes
- firefighting water services and equipment
- appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers
- commercial boilers for HVAC systems
- sanitary fixtures such as toilets, urinals and bidets
- non-drinking water systems, including recycled water systems
- products used exclusively for industrial or manufacturing processes where water is not intended for human consumption.

For further information, please visit our website: [New requirements for lead-free and dezincification resistant copper alloy plumbing products | Building Performance](#)



Kind regards,
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