



# R.E. Prescott Co., Inc.

Mechanical Equipment and Professional Engineering

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## ATTENTION REPCO CUSTOMERS

Due to the new law U.S. Senate Bill 3874, the *Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act*, the allowable lead content in brass products has been reduced from 8.0% to 0.25% (weighted average). This new law was effective January 4, 2014.

Since January 4th, we at R. E. Prescott have been selling 'no lead', 'lead free', 'low lead' products. This applies to the wetted surface of any product used in a potable water system.

The fittings will carry the same underlying properties, performance, and appearance as their leaded counterparts. However, as with any change, nothing stays exactly the same. By removing the majority of the lead, each fitting now requires more care during implementation, assembly and installation. With the lead removed, brass fittings and valves are not as malleable as they once were.

We have consulted with the manufacturers we receive these fittings and valves from and on their recommendation we suggest to our customers to use only one form of fitting preparation: pipe dope OR Teflon tape. Not both.

We have carried out and tested both these options and found that using only pipe dope garnered the best results. The pipe dope we used while testing these assemblies was *Blue Monster<sup>®</sup> PTFE Pipe Thread Sealant*. Care must also be given when tightening these 'lead free' fittings. Over tightening may result in fitting failure. Our recommendation is to use wrenches appropriate for the fitting size being assembled.

As a result of this testing and based on our findings, tank packs and other assembly work prepared by R. E. Prescott Co., will be sent out with the use of pipe dope only.

We hope this will help clarify any questions you may have regarding the new Federal Lead Rule and its implications in your day to day work. If there are any other issues or questions you would like to discuss, please contact one of us here at the R. E. Prescott Co., Inc.

January, 2014