

## dahl•ECO is CA / VT Compliant

### Who is Dahl?

Incorporated in 1952, Dahl is a family-owned domestic manufacturer of top quality plumbing & heating valves and specialties. Our products are engineered as practical real-world solutions using only the highest quality materials, which are sourced primarily in North America.

The Mini-Ball™ valve, All Round™ strapping, U-Clips and dahl-in-one® are but a few examples of over 50 years of innovation. Since revolutionizing the industry in 1984 with the 1st generation of Mini-Ball™ valves, the patented modular design of our 2nd generation mini-ball™ valve has become the basis for thousands of valve and installation kit combinations for a variety of applications. Customers request new specialties every week of the year.

### What are some recent milestones in Dahl's product offering?

Examples of new and exciting products which Dahl has recently brought to market include:

- valves with the QUICK-GRIP™ connections that simply push onto ½" Copper, CPVC or PEX pipe to make a permanent connection without tools;
- valves with integral Water Hammer Arrestor to extend the life of plumbing fixtures and to stop pipes from banging;
- dual outlet valves in both popular and custom configurations;
- dual shutoff valves with swivel connections for easy outlet positioning; and
- the finishing valve which creates a beautiful finished look by covering unsightly pipe stub-outs in pedestal sink, bidet and toilet applications.

Dahl prides itself on producing innovative engineered solutions backed by top quality and reliable hassle-free installation.

### Why do professionals turn to Dahl?

Dahl Quality & Service. We have been tracking a reported low 3ppm field failure rate for years and, in the rare instance anything ever goes wrong, we ensure our customers are satisfied. We offer a great 25 year warranty but strive to ensure customers never need to use it.

### What is new at Dahl?

Since 2007 we have invested significantly towards compliance with the 2010 Lead Free legislation in California. The result is that our product will be at a fraction of the 0.25% lead content on wetted surfaces by weight, as legislated by California AB1953. This is achieved without introducing other heavy metals into the alloy.

### Why choose dahl•ECO?

We've worked closely with our American brass suppliers and invested significantly not only to exceed lead-free requirements, but also to ensure that product quality in terms of corrosion resistance is the best that is available on the market.

The dahl•ECO products are even better than the traditional product, in that the new material is significantly stronger than traditional brass. Since it is much more corrosion resistant, it is able to withstand more abuse and much harsher water conditions.

Making the switch to dahl•ECO is easy. There's no learning curve because the product



design is unchanged and a copper alloy is still being used so the same installation methods still apply.

We have the flexibility to offer more than just the standard supply stops in dahl•ECO versions. Dahl is producing the entire mini-ball™ valve line to be compliant - including our innovative specialty products.

Finally, we're offering a stock exchange program to make the transition easy for our customers.

Why risk going with the bare minimum acceptable product? Going with the best product available is the right thing to do; it just makes good long term ECO sense.

### How will compliant Dahl products be identifiable?

Look for the dahl•ECO logo. It's clearly marked on every compliant product and package. Furthermore, the product will be certified for compliance to the NSF/ANSI 61-G standard. Ordering will be easy because it's a very simple part number change.

We thank the Professionals throughout California and USA who install our products with pride, and year after year turn their trust to Dahl Quality. We look forward to continuing to serve you with our new dahl•ECO product.

[www.dahlvalve.com](http://www.dahlvalve.com)



# Get the Lead Out!

## Manufacturers adapt to looming low-lead laws

by Jack Sweet

Lead exposure can do bad things to a human body. Cumulative exposure to high levels of lead over time can cause neurological damage, liver disease, cardiovascular complications and other unpleasant side effects.

Recently a move has been afoot in legislatures everywhere—most notably in California and Vermont—to try and reduce everyone's exposure to lead, and one way was to change the plumbing fixtures we all use. So it was, then, that California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law California Assembly Bill 1953 in September 2006.

AB 1953, which is set to carry the full weight of law in the Golden State on Jan. 1, 2010, specifies basically that the lead content of products should be a weighted average of not more than 0.25 percent in pipes, fixtures, and fittings. After Jan. 1, 2010, water fixtures and fittings that wear out will have to be replaced with so-called "lead-free" items containing no more than 0.25 percent lead as described above.

This would appear to present a challenge to manufacturers, a group that faced a tough non-

choice: either completely forget about selling products in California (and Vermont) or take advantage of the time provided by the debate surrounding the bill as it passed through the legislature and get compliant products into the pipeline ASAP.

Of course, California's market for plumbing products is too large to ignore, and most all of the manufacturers got cracking, according to Barbara Higgins, for the past 11 years the executive director of the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute in Rolling Meadows, Ill.

PMI's member companies produce just about every plumbing product consumed in the U.S. and, Higgins said, they're all taking the new lead requirements very seriously.

"PMI is actually taking the template of the California legislation and trying to encourage compliance on a national level so that the states are harmonized," Higgins said. "Vermont was ready to go to a different percentage of lead but PMI sent a letter and we were able to get Vermont to harmonize with California. The worst

thing in the world would be to have 50 different standards for lead content."

Higgins said manufacturers, PMI member companies, at least, are "well positioned" to be able to hit the ground running in California and Vermont in 2010 and in any other state that adopts the same lead standards.

"It has been a struggle to come up with alternative materials and so forth—it has not been an easy thing to do—but, because they had such early warning, I think they are in really good shape," Higgins said, adding other states are, in fact, eyeing lead content laws for plumbing products.

"Massachusetts is looking at an alternative chemicals bill, and that includes a whole laundry list of things including lead," she said. We're watching that closely. There are other places that are beginning to kick around the idea. If there's any way to harmonize all the states, that's what we want to do. And that'll make it easier on the states, too. If they have a model to look at they don't have to go through the difficulty of coming up with their own standards."

Different companies have come up with different ways to become compliant in 2010. One method, employed by T&S Brass & Bronze Works, for example, saw the company introduce a line of AB1953-compliant products in October. Engineering manager Jeff Baldwin said the "CA" line of products represents only an interim split in the product line to make it easier to spec projects on the drawing boards now.

"We took our models with the highest sales volume and created the EcoBrass versions of those immediately. Those are available now," Baldwin said, adding the complete product line will be switched in time for the Jan. 1 deadline: "The CA products are for people who are going to be bidding jobs in [the first quarter of 2010] and are doing orders or specs now and don't want to get caught during this transition period," Baldwin said.

Uponor also has introduced a complete line of compliant lead-free transition brass fittings. In fact, the company said its new fittings, combined with PEX tubing—also recently approved

in California—could create a lead free system, from inlet-to-faucet, a spokesperson said.

American Standard, as another example, completed recently a changeover of all its kitchen and bath faucets to compliant versions that use bismuth as a replacement for lead in its brass alloy, a spokesperson said, because an all-metal formula is unaffected by high temperatures.

Still another company with compliant products is Chicago Faucets, which last year introduced ECAST, a line of brass faucets and fixtures for installation in food service areas, restrooms, locker rooms, classrooms and other areas where students may drink water: "This new line of faucets has already received certification, so we are very excited to be able to offer it to the schools and other facilities throughout the state of California ahead of schedule," Chicago Faucets CEO Andreas Nowak said, adding early compliance was aimed to reduce the impact on projects currently in the planning stages. "Why make the children and residents of California wait, when we have the ability to provide faucets that meet this new law today?"

Also joining the ranks of the compliant is NIBCO, which is, "committed to being in compliance with the California Lead Plumbing Law by January 1, 2010. To help our customers with a smooth transition, we will begin introducing lead-free\* alternatives as early as July and we will continue to add new products to our portfolio throughout the year," said William Geers, director of marketing for NIBCO. [NOTE: Geers stressed that "lead-free" in the context of the new law refers to the wetted surface of the pipe, fittings and fixtures in potable water systems that have a weighted average lead content  $\leq 0.25$  percent. Source: California Health & Safety Code (116875)—Ed.]

And the list goes on and on. While manufacturers have a good handle on the new California (and beyond) lead laws, what's it all mean for contractors?

"I would just say that they should make sure they're using products from reputable manufacturers who do take the law seriously because this is a serious issue," said PMI's Higgins. "It's the law and we would encourage contractors to obey the law." ■



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dahl·ECO



Dahl's entire mini-ball™ product line available in the lowest lead content alloy, will be ready to ship by October 2009. Backed by a 25 year warranty, Dahl ECO valves are made with a proven, patented alloy that performs with superior corrosion resistance and exceeds the new, lower lead legislation in California and Vermont. Over 25 years ago Dahl pioneered the quarter turn mini-ball™ valve and we are now proud to blaze a new ECO trail.

# RELIABILITY

Call for the complete Dahl lineup **1.800.268.2363** [www.dahlvalve.com](http://www.dahlvalve.com)

Look for Dahl ECO marked mini-ball™ valves - the symbol of reliable North American manufactured product with wetted surfaces containing less than 0.1% Lead by weight.

