



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

August 15, 2007

Subject: Survey of Water Coolers in Federal Buildings

To: Location EMS Committee Members
Research Leaders, Administrative Officer

From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

A survey of water coolers in federal buildings at the Tifton Location was conducted on August 14, 2007. The purpose of the survey was to collect information about each water cooler including location, manufacturer, and model number. The data collected was compared with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of water coolers known to contain lead components. The list was compiled as a requirement of the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) which amended the Safe Drinking Water Act. The LCCA was signed into law on October 31, 1988.

Each federal building/shop/shed was inspected and twelve of those contained water coolers. After comparing the data collected with that provided by EPA, it was determined that two of the water coolers contain lead components. The first is located in the Crop Protection and Management Research Unit Main Lab/Office, Building #1. This water cooler was manufactured by Halsey Taylor, Model S1000-10D. Halsey Taylor reports using lead solder in this model of water cooler, as well as others, that were manufactured between 1978 and the last week of 1987. The second water cooler found to have a lead component is located at the Belflower Farm Shed, Building #50. It was manufactured by EBCO, Model CP10. EBCO Manufacturing states that this model of pressure bubbler cooler, as well as others, produced from 1978 through 1981 contains one 50-50 tin-lead solder joint.

The water cooler in CPMRU Building #1 is used minimally as there is an alternate source of Culligan bottled drinking water in the break room area. The water cooler at the Belflower Farm Shed #50 also appears unused and is badly weathered from being exposed to weather conditions for many years. At a minimum, each unit should be tested to ensure that the lead level does not exceed 15 parts per billion. The units should not be used until testing has been completed and each has been verified as being safe for consumption. However, based on the age, condition, and the lack of use for each unit, it is recommended that both units be removed from service immediately.

This survey is a part of the targets and objectives for FY07 under the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) program. Any decisions regarding testing, removal, or replacement of the units should be reported to the EMS Coordinator for proper EMS documentation.



South Atlantic Area, Crop Protection and Management Research Unit
P.O. Box 748, Tifton, GA 31793-0748
Voice: 229-387-2344 □ Fax: 229-387-2321 □ E-mail: tamara@tifton.usda.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

USDA-ARS SAA Tifton Location
Drinking Water Cooler Survey

Date: August 14, 2007
Conducted by: L.Marshall, T.Snipes

| Building | Location | Manufacturer | Model | Serial Number | Lead Containing? | Notes |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | CPMRU Main Lab/Office | Halsey Taylor | S1000-10D | 016507041A8 | Contains Pb solder | |
| 2B | CPMRU Shop/Shed | Oasis/EBCO | PLF10CP | 9721264363 | No | Appears Unused |
| 3 | CPMRU Headhouse | Oasis/EBCO | PLF10CP | 9723286562 | No | |
| 16 | SEWS Office (kitchen) | Sunroc | Stickers faded | Stickers faded | ?? | Can't read labels |
| 16 | SEWS Shop (sink) | Elkay | WGA71110 | 6E53705 | No | 429H |
| 16 | SEWS Shop (large door) | Westinghouse | W110 | WD108808 | No | |
| 19 | CGBRU Headhouse | Sunroc | CSF-10 | 94273623 | No | |
| 24 | CGBRU Triangle Office | Elkay | FD70031E | 20419582 | No | |
| 31 | CPMRU Peanut Research Lab | Elkay | Not found | Not found | No | No markings on unit |
| 32 | CPMRU Biological Control Lab | Sunroc | PE1 | 4869164E (?) | No | Close to wall/hard to read |
| 33 | SEWS Field Headqt. Bldg. | Oasis/EBCO | PLF10CP | 9733458980 | No | Not connected/unplugged |
| 35 | SEWS Shop Building | Elkay | WCA71110 | 6L79385 | No | |
| 43 | SEWS Metal Building | Sunroc | T1-S10 | J369341A | No | |
| 50 | Belflower Farm Shed | Oasis/EBCO | CP10 | 9148327584 | Contains one 50-50 Pb/Sn solder joint | |

The following manufacturers were sited: Halsey Taylor, EBCO/Oasis/Kelvinator/Aquarius, Westinghouse, Sunroc.

The documents below contain the model numbers of units that are not lead free:

- http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/Utility/lead_in_water_coolers.pdf
- http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/DrinkingWater/documents/water_coolers.pdf
- http://www.redwing.k12.mn.us/dept/b_g/heal_safe_plans/lead_water.pdf

Also see the following Federal Register documents:

- 55 FR 1772 January 18, 1990 Environmental Protection Agency Notice
- 55 FR 14851 April 19, 1990 Consumer Product Safety Commission Notice
- 55 FR 22387 June 1, 1990 Consumer Product Safety Commission Notice