



**American Water Works  
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**ANSI/AWWA C810-17**  
(First Edition)

**AWWA Standard**

# Replacement and Flushing of Lead Service Lines

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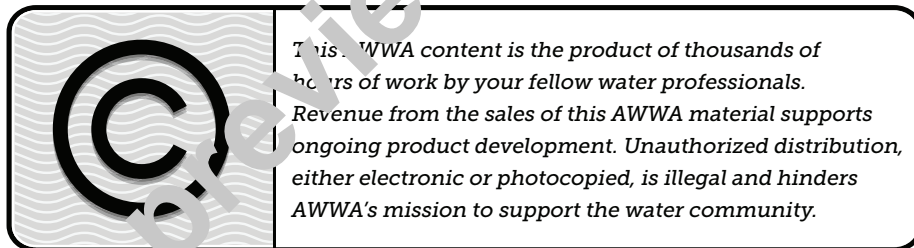
## AWWA Standard

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## Committee Personnel

The AWWA Standards Subcommittee on Lead Service Lines, which developed this standard, had the following personnel at the time of approval:

J. Eisnor, Halifax Water, Halifax, N.S., Canada	(AWWA)
J.A. Fleming,* Standards Council Liaison, Greater Cincinnati Water Works, Cincinnati, Ohio	(AWWA)
T.C. Gilbert, Onondaga County Water Authority, Syracuse, N.Y.	(AWWA)
S. Gould, Atkins, Austin, Texas	(AWWA)
M.E. Grahek, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Mojave, Calif.	(AWWA)
K.C. Morgan, KCM Consulting Services LLC, Phoenix, Ariz.	(AWWA)
K. Oberoi, Charleston Water System, Charleston, S.C.	(AWWA)
P.J. Olson,* Staff Advisor, American Water Works Association, Denver, Colo.	(AWWA)
S.D. Osborne, OSD LLC, Lexington, Mass.	(AWWA)
R.W. Roost, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Lansing, Mich.	(AWWA)
M.K. Schmelling, DC Water, Washington, D.C.	(AWWA)
R. Slabaugh, Arcadis, Indianapolis, Ind.	(AWWA)
F. Trinchini, City of Toronto–Toronto Water, Toronto Ont., Canada	(AWWA)
C. Van Der Kolk, Zeeland Board of Public Works, Zeeland, Mich.	(AWWA)
S.H. Via, American Water Works Association, Washington, D.C.	(AWWA)
A.J. Weiss, Onondaga County Water Authority, Syracuse, N.Y.	(AWWA)

The AWWA Standards Committee on Distribution System Operations and Management, which reviewed and approved this standard, had the following personnel at the time of approval:

Kanwal Oberoi, *Chair*

### *General Interest Members*

M.N. Agbovo, URS Corporation, Temecula, Calif.	(AWWA)
M.L. Atland, Hatch Mott MacDonald, Iselin, N.J.	(AWWA)
O.M. Fancher,* Standards Engineer Liaison, AWWA, Denver, Colo.	(AWWA)
S. Gould, Atkins, Austin, Texas	(AWWA)

---

\* Liaison, nonvoting

H. Huddle, NAVFAC—Washington Public Works Department, Washington Navy Yard, D.C.	(AWWA)
S.R. Mason, Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., Fort Worth, Texas	(AWWA)
B. McDonald, HDR Engineering, Phoenix, Ariz.	(AWWA)
K.C. Morgan, KCM Consulting Services LLC, Phoenix, Ariz.	(AWWA)
S.D. Osborne, OSD LLC, Lexington, Mass.	(AWWA)
P. Rogers, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga.	(AWWA)
D.S. Schwartz,* Standards Council Liaison, City of Waynesboro, Waynesboro, Va.	(AWWA)
A.J. Weiss, GHD Inc., Cazenovia, N.Y.	(AWWA)

*Producer Members*

D.A. Feuer, Woolpert Inc., Englewood, Colo.	(AWWA)
---	--------

*User Members*

J.S. Czarnecki, Greenville Water, Travelers Rest, S.C.	(AWWA)
J.E. Dyksen, Suez Water, North Haledon, N.J.	(AWWA)
W.C. Gedney, Golden State Water Company, Ontario, Calif.	(AWWA)
M.E. Grahek, Los Angeles Department of Water, Los Angeles, Calif.	(AWWA)
C. Morissette, Ville de Montreal, Montreal, Que., Canada	(AWWA)
K. Oberoi, Charleston Water System, Charleston, S.C.	(AWWA)
G. Ramon, Little Rock Wastewater, Little Rock, Ark.	(AWWA)
D. Spencer, Powdersville Water District, Powdersville, S.C.	(AWWA)
J.W. Swertfeger, Cincinnati Water Works, Cincinnati, Ohio	(AWWA)

---

\* Liaison, nonvoting

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# Foreword

*This foreword is for information only and is not a part of ANSI\*/AWWA C810.*

## **I. Introduction.**

I.A. *Background.* Replacement of lead service lines and subsequent flushing are important processes for ensuring the delivery of safe drinking water. The AWWA Policy Statement on Lead Service Line Management supports protecting public health through the reduction of exposure to lead in drinking water and encourages communities to develop a lead reduction strategy that includes identifying and removing all lead service lines over time. This standard is intended to describe essential procedures for the replacement of lead service lines, including the following elements: appropriate tools and techniques; flushing a service line after replacement; factors to consider in optimizing flushing; instructions to inform customers affected by the replacement, including additional risk reduction measures; and verification of lead level management prior to return to service. Although partial replacements should be discouraged, this standard also describes procedures for partial replacement and repair situations where full service line replacement is not possible or practical.

This is the first edition of this standard and will likely result in valuable feedback from first users of the standard. As such, it is anticipated that a second edition with additional information and guidance will be necessary and issued well before AWWA's regular five-year revision schedule for standards.

I.B. *History.* Development of this standard was authorized by the AWWA Standards Council in 2011 and was assigned to the AWWA Standards Committee on Distribution System Operations and Management. A Subcommittee on Lead Service Lines was formed to draft the standard. This first edition of the standard was approved by the AWWA Board of Directors on June 11, 2017.

I.C. *Acceptance.* In May 1985, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) entered into a cooperative agreement with a consortium led by NSF International (NSF) to develop voluntary third-party consensus standards and a certification program for direct and indirect drinking water additives. Other members of the original consortium included the Water Research Foundation (formerly AwwaRF) and the Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers (COSHEM). The

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\* American National Standards Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10036.

American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) joined later.

In the United States, authority to regulate products for use in, or in contact with, drinking water rests with individual states.\* Local agencies may choose to impose requirements more stringent than those required by the state. To evaluate the health effects of products and drinking water additives from such products, state and local agencies may use various references, including

1. Specific policies of the state or local agency.
2. Two standards developed under the direction of NSF<sup>†</sup>: NSF/ANSI 60, Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals—Health Effects, and NSF/ANSI 61, Drinking Water System Components—Health Effects.
3. Other references, including AWWA standards, *Food Chemicals Codex*, *Water Chemicals Codex*,<sup>‡</sup> and other standards considered appropriate by the state or local agency.

Various certification organizations may be involved in certifying products in accordance with NSF/ANSI 60 and 61. Individual states or local agencies have authority to accept or accredit certification organizations within their jurisdictions. Accreditation of certification organizations may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Annex A, “Toxicology Review and Evaluation Procedures,” to NSF/ANSI 60 and 61 do not stipulate a maximum allowable level (MAL) of a contaminant for substances not regulated by a USEPA final maximum contaminant level (MCL). The MALs of an unspecified list of “unregulated contaminants” are based on toxicity testing guidelines (noncarcinogens) and risk characterization methodology (carcinogens). Use of Annex A procedures may not always be identical, depending on the certifier.

ANSI/AWWA C810 does not address additives requirements. Thus, users of this standard should consult the appropriate state or local agency having jurisdiction in order to

1. Determine additives requirements, including applicable standards.
2. Determine the status of certifications by parties offering to certify products for contact with, or treatment of, drinking water.
3. Determine current information on product certification.

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\* Persons outside the United States should contact the appropriate authority having jurisdiction.

† NSF International, 789 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

‡ Both publications available from National Academy of Sciences, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

## II. Special Issues.

II.A. *Prioritizing Lead Service Line Replacement.* Suggested items to consider when prioritizing lead service line replacement follow (not in order of priority):

- Any lead service line that is physically disturbed by dig-ins, excavations, repairs, or similar activities.
- Existing partial lead service line replacements.
- Lead service lines supplying schools, day care centers, or other identified sensitive populations as defined by the USEPA.
- Lead service lines where sample results are more than 15 ppb or other established health levels.
- Lead service lines located in scheduled underground infrastructure work or street restoration work zones that could be replaced concurrently, minimizing any negative impact to customers.
- Multiple lead services within a compact area (cost containment).
- Length of lead pipe present in a particular service line.
- Consideration of presence of lead goosenecks and galvanized service lines.

II.B. *Optimizing Corrosion Control Treatment.* Corrosion of piping and solder can be a primary source of lead contamination in drinking water. Optimizing corrosion control treatment may help a utility to minimize this source of lead contamination. Utilities may consider appropriate corrosion control treatments that include pH adjustment, alkalinity adjustment, addition of corrosion inhibitors, and other corrosion control treatments. Additional guidance on applying corrosion control treatments can be found in the AWWA Manual of Water Supply Practice M58—*Internal Corrosion Control in Water Distribution Systems*, the AWWA “Optimized Corrosion Control Treatment Primer,” and the 2015 *Journal - AWWA* article “Strategies for Assessing Optimized Corrosion Control Treatment of Lead and Copper” (these documents are available through the AWWA Lead Resource page: [www.awwa.org/lead](http://www.awwa.org/lead)).

II.C. *Reuse or Replacement of Service Line Fittings, Valves, and Water Meters.* The scope of this standard covers replacement of lead service lines. Utilities may choose to reuse or replace the related fittings, valves (corporation stops and curb stops), and water meters, based on the site-specific age and condition of those components and based on the utility-specific replacement schedules and practices. The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act requires that all newly installed pipes, fittings, and fixtures meet the current definition of “lead free.” The reuse of existing fittings (that may or may not meet the current definition of “lead free”) is allowed by the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act if reused in their original locations.

II.D. *Utility Communication Planning for Lead in Drinking Water.* Water utilities are facing a new communications challenge related to lead in drinking water. Currently, utilities are required under the Safe Drinking Water Act to communicate lead risks when there is an exceedance of the lead action level as defined in the Lead and Copper Rule and annually as part of their consumer confidence reports. Utilities conducting mandatory lead service line replacements must meet specific outreach requirements targeting affected households. Beyond these requirements, many utilities also communicate lead exposure risks proactively in consumer confidence reports, on websites, and through other means.

Water utilities should be planning to communicate lead exposure risks in a proactive and targeted manner not only when lead service lines are repaired or replaced but also when routine maintenance work on water mains may disturb lead service lines. This change may dramatically alter the frequency of direct-to-customer lead communications and requires a new level of planning by utility managers and communicators.

Although the water utility and public health communities have made significant strides in reducing lead exposure, public health advocates and regulatory agencies are looking closely at the contribution of lead at the tap from lead service lines—particularly lead service lines that have been disturbed. Three typical scenarios raise concerns about elevated lead levels: lead service line replacement when required by the Lead and Copper Rule or proactively performed by the utility; infrastructure replacement when full or partial lead service line replacement occurs when other utility work is under way, such as during water main rehabilitation; and repairs to lead service lines.

Water providers should consider building on current communication plans to provide additional information to customers regarding lead and lead service line replacement. AWWA has assembled *Communicating About Lead Service Lines: A Guide for Water Systems Addressing Service Line Repair and Replacement* as a tool for preparing and expanding these communications (<http://www.awwa.org/Portals/0/files/resources/publicaffairs/pdfs/1717NALeadServiceLineCommGuide.pdf>).

This guide is designed to help water utilities build on current communication strategies to address these new areas of concern and manage the increased frequency of communication with customers. It provides utilities with customizable messages and templates to communicate with customers in a variety of ways to better protect public health. For brevity, the content of the guide will not be repeated here.

Additional guidance on utility communications can be found on the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative website: <http://www.lslr-collaborative.org/>.

II.E. *Grounding of Electrical Circuits on Piping.* If the lead service line is replaced with a nonmetallic pipe or if a nonconductive plastic coupling (dielectric coupling) is used within a few feet of the home, the home owner may need to take additional measures to ensure the structure has sufficient grounding. Historically, connection to the home piping system was used for grounding the home's electrical system. By removing the underground metal piping, an alternative grounding strategy may be needed.

All metal water systems should be “bonded.” Failure to adequately bond the potable water piping systems to the electrical system increases the potential for both fire and electrocution should the piping system become energized (see National Electric Code).

**III. Use of This Standard.** It is the responsibility of the user of an AWWA standard to determine that the products and/or processes described in that standard are suitable for use in the particular application being considered.

III.A. *Purchaser Options and Alternatives.* This standard is written as though the replacement and flushing work will be performed by the purchaser's (generally the utility's) personnel. Where the work is to be performed using a separate contract or as part of a contract for replacing service lines,\* appropriate provisions should be included in the purchase documents to ensure the constructor is specifically instructed as to its responsibilities. The following information should be provided by the purchaser:

1. Standard used—that is, ANSI/AWWA C810, Replacement and Flushing of Lead Service Lines, of latest revision.
2. Whether compliance with NSF/ANSI 61, Drinking Water System Components—Health Effects, is required.
3. Details of other federal, state or provincial, and local requirements (Section 4).
4. Method of replacement to be used—open cut, trenchless on new route, or trenchless using existing route (Sec. 4.1).

III.B. *Modification to Standard.* Any modification of the provisions, definitions, or terminology in this standard must be provided by the purchaser.

**IV. Major Revisions.** This is the first edition of this standard.

**V. Comments.** If you have any comments or questions about this standard, please call the AWWA Engineering and Technical Services at 303.794.7711; write to the department at 6666 West Quincy Avenue, Denver, CO 80235-3098; or email at [standards@awwa.org](mailto:standards@awwa.org).

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\* Refer to other AWWA standards and manuals for design criteria for various service line materials.

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# Replacement and Flushing of Lead Service Lines

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## SECTION 1: GENERAL

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### **Sec. 1.1 Scope**

This standard describes essential procedures for the replacement of lead water service lines and flushing following replacement. Essential procedures include the following: appropriate tools and techniques; flushing a service line after replacement; factors to consider in optimizing flushing; and instructions to provide customers affected by the replacement, including additional risk reduction measures. This standard also describes procedures for partial replacement and repair situations where complete lead service line replacement is not possible or practical.

### **Sec. 1.2 Purpose**

The purpose of this standard is to define the minimum process requirements for the replacement of lead service lines and for flushing following replacement.

### **Sec. 1.3 Application**

This standard can be referenced in the purchase documents for the replacement of lead service lines and can be used as a guide for the appropriate replacement tools and techniques, flushing practices and procedures, communications with customers, and verification of successful completion. The stipulations of this standard apply when this document has been referenced and only to the extent referenced.