

CDC Summary Table¹

Table 4: Standards and Regulations for Lead [ACCLPP 2012]

What Are Routes of Exposure to Lead?

Agency	Media	Level	
ACGIH	Air (workplace)	150 µg/m ³	TLV/TWA guideline for lead arsenate
ACGIH	Blood	50 µg/m ³ 30 µg/dL	TLV/TWA guideline for other forms of lead Advisory; indicates exposure at TLV*
CDC	Blood	5 µg/dL	Reference range upper value for children's BLL and reference BLL for adults (NIOSH).
CPSC	Paint	90 ppm (0.009%)	Regulation; by dry weight. New standard for lead in household paint and similar surface coatings in children's products, and some furniture, for adult and children, children's toys, jewelry, etc.
EPA	Air (ambient)	0.15 µg/m ³	Regulation; NAAQS; 3-month average
EPA	Soil (residential)	400 ppm (play areas) 1200 ppm (non-play areas)	Soil screening guidance level; requirement for federally funded projects only (40 CFR Part 745, 2001)
EPA	Water (drinking)	15 µg/L 0 µg/L;	Action level for public supplies Non-enforceable supplies goal; MCLG
FDA	Food	Various	Action levels for various foods; example: lead-soldered food cans now banned
FDA	Drinking water	5 ppb	Bottled water
NIOSH	Air (workplace)	50 µg/m ³	REL (non-enforceable)
OSHA	Air (workplace)	50 µg/m ³ 30 µg/m ³	Regulation; PEL (8-hour time weighted average) (general industry) Action level (averaged over an 8-hour period)
OSHA	Blood	40 µg/dL 50 µg/dL and 60 µg/dL	Regulation; cause for written notification and medical exam, and return to work after removal Regulation; cause for medical removal from exposure

¹ Lead (Pb) Toxicity: What Are U.S. Standards for Lead Levels? | Environmental Medicine | ATSDR (cdc.gov)

ACGIH – American Council of Government and Industrial Hygienists

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CPSC – Consumer Products Safety Commission

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

NIOSH – National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration

BLL – Blood Lead Levels

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards

PEL – Permissible Exposure Level

ppm – parts per million

REL – Recommended Exposure Limit

TLV/TWA – Threshold Limit Value/Time Weighted Average

µg/dL – micrograms per deciliter

* Note: BEI and TLV values are intended for use in the practice of industrial hygiene as guidelines or recommendations to assist in the control of potential workplace health hazards and for no other use. These values are not fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations and should not be used by anyone untrained in the discipline of industrial hygiene.