Department: Safe Environments	Effective Date: 11/18/24	Procedure Number: 9035
Regulation Number: 1302.47(b)(10)	Regulation Topic: Safety Practices	Procedure Title: Preventing Exposure to Lead in Water and Paint

Procedure:

Programs must establish an appropriate schedule for testing for lead in water and paint based on the age and other physical characteristics of the facility.

Testing for lead in water:

Programs are only required to test water fixtures that are accessible or used by children enrolled in Head Start*. If a Head Start program operates in a school, the program must test fixtures in Head Start classrooms as well as common areas used for the Head Start program.

Programs should determine lead levels in water for their facilities informed by Federal and State requirements, guidance from state or local health departments or community water systems, and TTA or guidance from ACF.

In some newer facilities or in facilities where water pipes have been fully replaced and a program can document the water is free of lead contaminants, regular testing of water may not be required at the same frequency as for an older facility.

Testing for lead in paint: Buildings built before 1978 a risk assessment should be done of by a certified risk assessor and the firm for which the risk assessor works must be a certified risk assessment firm.

Identifying trends in children's blood lead levels. In the event, multiple children at a DSP have elevated lead levels, MARC Head Start will work with each child's primary care provider to develop an action plan to decrease the lead levels. MARC Head Start will also consult the local health departments to identify a strategy that may include the testing of soil and the water at the program site.

Remediation or Abatement of lead:

If lead hazards are identified in either water or paint, programs must implement appropriate remediation or abatement actions

Programs must work with trained professionals to abate lead-based paint hazards as needed.

Reviewed: 8/13/25

These professionals are equipped to enact EPA standards for DLHS and DLCL and subject to applicable EPA and HUD requirements and regulations.

If it is determined that lead is present in water and/or paint, programs must implement ongoing practices, including testing and inspection at least every two years, with support from trained professionals. This two-year interval is aligned with the two-year re-evaluation interval for HUD-assisted properties, such as childcare facilities in common areas of multi-family housing, in the Lead Safe Housing Rule

*Head Start is inclusive of EHS and HS.