Consumer Tool for Identifying Point-of-Use and Pitcher Filters Certified to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Point-of-Use Filters

Point-of-use, or POU, water filters remove impurities from drinking water at the point that it is actually being used. Although there are others, the POU filters covered in this document are those used in filtration systems that are attached directly to water faucets or those inserted into refrigerators for water and ice dispensers.

Faucet Filter Device

Refrigerator Filter

Pitcher Filters

Pitcher water filters remove impurities from drinking water and are those that are inserted into water pitchers and bottles.

Pitcher With Filter

Bottle With Filter

Why is certification important for water filters?

Consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing POU and pitcher filters that have been evaluated by an accredited third-party certification body or bodies for drinking water lead reduction to 5 parts per billion (ppb) or less and particulate reduction (Class I) capabilities.

How do I know if a filter is certified to reduce lead?

There are several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies that evaluate POU and pitcher filters for lead reduction in drinking water. They each have unique certification marks (registered trademarks) that are used on certified products.

Certification bodies require their mark and a statement indicating testing against **NSF/ANSI Standard 53 along with a claim of lead reduction**. It is recommended that you also look for filters tested against **NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I)**.

Certification Marks

Below are the ANSI accredited third-party certification bodies' approved certification marks and the text that indicates a filter has been evaluated for lead reduction capabilities. Some filters can be certified by more than one certification body and have multiple certification marks.

See page 2 for information on where to find marks and claims of reduction.

NSF product listing directory — info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/

WQA product listing directory — find.wqa.org/find-products#/

IAPMO R&T product listing directory — pld.iapmo.org

UL Solutions product listing directory — productiq.ulprospector.com/en

CSA product listing directory — csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing

Drinking Water NSF/ANSI 53

Drinking Water NSF/ANSI 42

Text for NSF/ANSI Standards 42 & 53 next to certification marks:

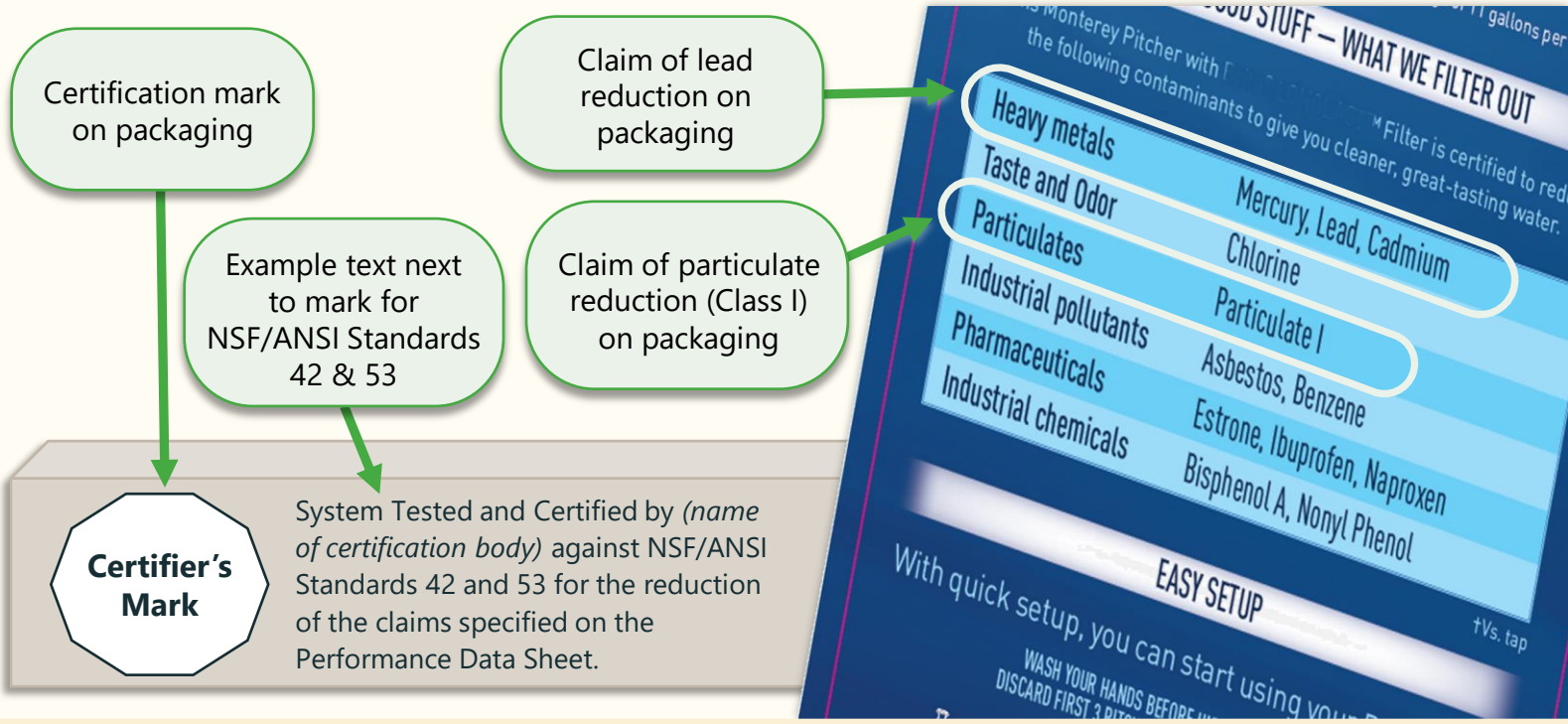
- Example text on packaging: *Tested and Certified by (certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the claims specified on the Performance Data Sheet.*
- Some companies may indicate lead removal in the text or may simply state NSF/ANSI 53 or NSF/ANSI 42 above or below the mark.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only. Any mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute EPA endorsement or recommendation for use.

EPA/600/F-24/143
June 2024
(Update to EPA/600/F-18/335)

Certification Marks, Standards Text, and Claims of Reduction on Filter Packaging

Certification marks (page 1) can be found on the filter packaging, the filter, or on the smallest container in which the filter is packaged. Examples of certification marks, NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text, and claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) as found on product packaging are shown below.



Claims of Reduction on Performance Data Sheets

Claims of lead reduction to 5 parts per billion (ppb) or less and particulate reduction (Class I) not included on the filter packaging can typically be found on the performance data sheet (example below) located inside the filter packaging, in the certifier's online product listing directory (see page 1), or on the manufacturer's website.

NSF/ANSI Standard 53 claim of lead reduction

NSF/ANSI Standard 42 claim of particulate reduction (Class I)

SUBSTANCE	Overall Percent Reduction	Influent Challenge Concentration	U.S. EPA Level*/NSF Maximum Permissible Product Water Concentration
NSF/ANSI Standard 53 – Health Effects			
Lead pH 6.5	99.5%	150±15 ppb	5 ppb
Lead pH 8.5	99.6%	150±15 ppb	5 ppb
Mercury pH 6.5	95.5%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
Mercury pH 8.5	95.9%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
Cadmium pH 6.5	97.4%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Cadmium pH 8.5	99.2%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Benzene	93.5%	15±1.5 ppb	5 ppb
Asbestos	>99%	55000000±45000000 Fibers/L	99%*
NSF/ANSI Standard 401 – Emerging Compounds/Incidental Contaminants			
Bisphenol A†	95.5%	2000±400 ppt	300 ppt
Estrone†	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Ibuprofen†	94.9%	400±80 ppt	60 ppt
Naproxen†	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Nonyl phenol†	93.5%	1400±280 ppt	200 ppt
NSF/ANSI Standard 42 – Aesthetic Effects			
Chlorine	97.4%	2.0±0.2 ppb	50%*
Particulate Reduction Class I	99.6%	>10000 particles/mL	85%*

EPA's Lead in Drinking Water Website

epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water

Questions?

- About a filter: Refer to the certifier's product listing directory on page 1 or contact the manufacturer.
- About this document: Send an email to latham.michelle@epa.gov and tully.jennifer@epa.gov.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only. Any mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute EPA endorsement or recommendation for use.