



Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

LEAD PAINT CERTIFICATES FOR RENTAL HOUSING

The Maryland Lead Risk Reduction in Housing Law (“Law”) requires inspections to be conducted at various times. A rental dwelling unit, which was constructed prior to 1950, **must** meet any applicable inspection standards. The Maryland Department of the Environment maintains lists of accredited lead paint inspection contractors. Only accredited inspectors are qualified to provide these inspection services.

The Law also requires registration, fee payment and distribution of educational materials in addition to the inspection requirements. You may call (410) 537-4199 or (800) 776-2706 for further information about these topics, or log onto the Maryland Department of the Environment’s website www.mde.state.md.us/lead.

RISK REDUCTION CERTIFICATION

A Full Risk Reduction inspection is generally conducted in a vacant unit prior to occupancy by a new tenant. An accredited inspection contractor may issue a certificate, which indicates that there is a reduced risk of lead exposure in a rental unit.

The Full Risk Reduction standard is met by passing the test for lead-contaminated dust, provided that that any chipping peeling, or flaking paint has been removed or repainted on interior and exterior of the rental dwelling unit. After verifying paint condition meets the standard the accredited inspector must collect dust samples from each room in the unit. Each dust sample must be analyzed by a qualified laboratory, and the results must fall below specified levels. In general, testing for lead contaminated dust is most likely to be successful in a clean, well maintained property.

A Modified Risk Reduction inspection is generally conducted in an occupied rental dwelling unit in response to either (a) a notice of defective paint or related conditions which may increase the risk of lead exposure or (b) a notice that a child or pregnant woman in the unit has a lead level of 10 micrograms or higher per deciliter of blood.

The Modified Risk Reduction standard is met by passing the test for lead contaminated dust and performing specific lead hazard reduction treatments. The lead hazard treatments must be performed and by an accredited contractor or supervisor.

LEAD FREE CERTIFICATION

A rental dwelling unit which has been certified to be free of lead paint (XRF readings below 0.7mg/cm² or paint chip samples below 0.5% by weight) can be exempted from annual registration fees and from further risk reduction requirements. Contact an accredited Lead Paint Inspection Contractor who has been accredited by MDE to conduct lead paint surveys for meeting the Law’s “Lead Free” standard.

If the lead paint survey determines that lead paint is present in a unit, an accredited abatement supervisor or contractor can fully abate the lead paint. An accredited inspector can issue a Lead Free certificate following a determination that the abatement has been satisfactorily completed. There is,

however, no obligation under the Law to fully remove or otherwise permanently abate all of the lead paint in a rental property.

If the lead paint survey determines that there is no lead paint on interior surfaces of the unit, but does have lead paint on exterior surfaces, that unit may qualify for a Limited Lead Free certificate. If the unit meets the Limited Lead Free Standard, the accredited inspector must visually inspect the exterior areas to ensure there is no chipping, peeling or flaking paint on those surfaces. The unit meeting the Limited Lead Free certificate must be re-inspected every two years on or before the date of the original certification. If the re- inspection does not occur in a timely manner the original certificate is no longer considered valid.

Be advised that Maryland’s “Lead Free” standard does not meet the Federal Lead Free standard.

For information please visit Maryland Department of the Environment, Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs website at www.mde.state.md.us/lead or contact the Lead Compliance and Accreditation Division at (410) 537-3825.

