



Drinking Water and Lead: Facts and FAQ



The EU Drinking Water Directive, positive lists and deadlines for materials in contact with drinking water

Version: October 2026 · sferatec.de/en-gb/lead-free
Page 1 of 2

The rules in brief

Positive lists instead of national systems

The EU framework reserves permanent drinking water contact for listed materials, subject to the transitional arrangements to 2032. The European positive lists under Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/367 apply from 31.12.2026. Listing of the material does not replace the product-level conformity confirmation.

Until then the national schemes apply

ACS in France, Kiwa ATA in the Netherlands, the hygienic certificate of NIZP PZH-PIB in Poland, ÜA marking and ÖVGW certification in Austria, the UBA metal assessment basis in Germany, supported by the 4MS Common Approach. Switzerland stands outside the EU framework and works through SVGW certification under Swiss food law.

Transition under Art. 3

Nationally approved starting substances may be used in manufacturing until 31.12.2032, provided 5 µg/l of lead at the tap is met.

Existing products

Products holding a valid national conformity confirmation on 31.12.2026 may continue to be used within the transitional period, at the latest until the end of 31.12.2032. From then on the EU framework applies alone.

Expiry dates in the European lists

Entries in the first European positive lists carry staggered expiry dates. What determines how long a position can be built in is the expiry date of the entry, not the material name.

Lead at the tap

The parametric value falls to 5.0 µg/l EU-wide by 12.01.2036 at the latest; until then 10 µg/l applies unless national law sets an earlier date. Separately from this, the value of 5 µg/l already governs the material assessment and the Art. 3 transition.

Marking

From 31.12.2026 the conformity assessment under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/370 and the marking under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/371 apply.

Deadlines at a glance

31.12.2026 European positive lists apply, the national approval schemes stop being the route to market. Manufacturing under Art. 3 stays open until 31.12.2032.

01.01.2027 New products go through the EU route: EU certificate and EU marking. In several countries no national certificate is issued for new products from this date.

31.12.2032 Both transitional routes close. National conformity confirmations lose their effect.

12.01.2036 EU-wide parametric value for lead at the tap of 5.0 µg/l at the latest. Germany has brought this date forward to 12.01.2028.

National approvals: what applies in your market

Country and national scheme	What happens
France, ACS	Applies until 31.12.2026. Certificates valid on that date stay usable in the transitional period, at the latest until 31.12.2032.
Netherlands, Kiwa ATA	Applies until 31.12.2026, then the same transitional arrangement.
Poland, atest higieniczny (NIZP PZH-PIB)	No hygienic certificate for new products from 01.01.2027. Certificates valid on 31.12.2026 can be extended, not beyond 31.12.2032.
Austria, ÜA marking, ÖVGW certification	No new registration certificates after 31.12.2026. Existing ones can be renewed, but not widened to further product types. Transition until 31.12.2032.
Germany, UBA metal assessment basis	Same arrangement, but the national lead limit at the tap already drops to 5.0 µg/l on 12.01.2028, and time-limited material entries end on 11.01.2028.
Switzerland, SVGW certification	Outside the EU framework, national route under Swiss food law. Products placed on the EU market must meet the EU rules wherever they are built.

Materials and Frequently Asked Questions

Answers for manufacturers, planners and purchasing

Version: October 2026 · sferatec.de/en-gb/lead-free

Page 2 of 2

Materials and drinking water status

Material	Lead content	Drinking water status
CW614N / CW617N free-cutting brass	approx. 1.6 to 3.5 %	not in Annex II; time-limited national entries only (Germany: until 11.01.2028)
Gunmetal CC499K CuSn5Zn5Pb2-C	0.2 to 3.0 %	not in Annex II; time-limited national entry only
Gunmetal CC470K CuSn4Zn2PS-C	max. 0.10 %	in Annex II of Decision (EU) 2024/367, entry 1657, product groups B to D
CW511L-DW, standard alloy range low-lead	up to 0.2 %	not in Annex II; German entry 2.5.3.1 only until 11.01.2028
CW511L-DW, lead-free our series specification	max. 0.10 %	listed in Germany without expiry date (UBA entry 2.5.3.2) and in the 4MS list, with As 0.02 to 0.10 % and Ni max. 0.10 %. Not yet in Annex II: Art. 3 transition until 31.12.2032
CW510L-DW not dezincification resistant	up to 0.2 %, lead-free at max. 0.10 % to our specification	in Annex II of Decision (EU) 2024/367
CW724R-DW lead-free silicon brass	max. 0.10 %	in Annex II of Decision (EU) 2024/367, entry 1658
Stainless steel V4A 1.4404, 1.4571	structurally lead-free	listed, higher resistance to chloride induced corrosion

What decides is not the material name but the delivered composition together with a valid list entry. Figures refer to the material level; product conformity additionally covers filler materials, surfaces and seals.

1. What changes on 31.12.2026?

The EU framework under Directive (EU) 2020/2184 replaces the national assessment schemes. The European positive lists under Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/367, the conformity assessment under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/370 and the marking under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/371 become the governing instruments.

2. What happens to products already certified nationally?

Products holding a valid national conformity confirmation on 31.12.2026 may continue to be used within the transitional period, at the latest until the end of 31.12.2032. Several countries issue no national certificate for new products after 2026, so anything not covered by then goes through the EU route straight away.

3. Which lead value applies to me, 10 or 5 micrograms per litre?

Both, for different purposes. The parametric value at the tap is 10 µg/l and has to fall to 5.0 µg/l by 12.01.2036 at the latest; Germany has done so with effect from 12.01.2028. Independently of the water value, 5 µg/l already governs the material side, as the benchmark for the assessment and the condition attached to the Art. 3 transition.

4. Which materials are listed for the long term?

CW510L-DW, CW724R-DW and gunmetal CC470K are already in Annex II of Decision (EU) 2024/367, stainless steel is listed. CW511L-DW lead-free (Pb max. 0.1 %) has been listed without an expiry date in the German UBA assessment basis and in the 4MS list since March 2025. Under Art. 3 of Decision (EU) 2024/367 it is covered until 31.12.2032; inclusion in the European positive list follows as the next step via the ECHA procedure. Entries in the first European lists carry expiry dates of their own.

5. Is the material name sufficient as evidence?

No. A single standard permits a range of compositions. For CW511L-DW the standard allows up to 0.2 % lead, whereas the entry without an expiry date requires lead at max. 0.10 %, arsenic between 0.02 and 0.10 % and nickel at max. 0.10 %. Ask for the analysis per batch, not just the designation.

6. Why do so many buyers choose CW510L-DW?

Because it was listed early and is already in Annex II. For drinking water that is fine; for RoHS only at max. 0.10 % lead in the delivery specification, as the standard range allows up to 0.2 %. CuZn42 is also not dezincification resistant. For critical water qualities CW511L-DW lead-free is the safer choice.

7. How should gunmetal be judged on the drinking water side?

CC499K carries only a time-limited national entry, while CC470K is in Annex II under entry 1657. For new build over the long term, CC470K remains, ordered as CuSn4Zn2PS-C to DIN SPEC 2701 with lead at max. 0.10 %. Its copper content of 90 to 96 % drives the price.

8. We build in Switzerland. Does any of this concern us?

Switzerland is not bound by the EU Drinking Water Directive; the national route runs through SVGW certification. As soon as a product is placed on the EU market, however, the EU framework applies in full, regardless of where it was built.

9. What part do coatings play?

A high-quality coating improves corrosion protection, surface and service life. It does not replace conformity on the material side: what governs is the delivered alloy with its positive list entry.

Send us your part list. We assign your positions to suitable materials and agree certificates, further documentation and sampling with you.

Marcel Kluth · Head of Commercial Operations
+49 2207 84 64 491 · kluth@sferatec.de

This overview summarises the regulatory position as of October 2026 and does not replace a legal assessment of the individual case. The applicable versions of Directive (EU) 2020/2184, Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/367, the national implementing rules and the relevant assessment schemes prevail. Product-specific evidence is provided on request.