

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Graybar Building, 420 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

March 21, 1933.

To Members of the Lead Industries Association:

CALKING LEAD SPECIFICATION

One of our members has suggested the advisability of the Lead Industries Association preparing specifications for the use of water departments and water companies in the purchase of pig lead for calking purposes. From time to time we have also been requested by water companies and their cast-iron pipe suppliers to furnish recommendations for a calking lead specification, all of which would indicate that a need for such a specification exists.

A survey of the procedure of some of the larger cities in purchasing calking lead reveals the fact that the requirements in various cities differ greatly and in many cases call for lead unsatisfactory for calking purposes. For instance, the Federal Government Specification for Grade B lead, which is used for calking, requires only 95 per cent pure lead, and Chicago requires 99 per cent lead. Obviously either 5 per cent or 1 per cent of impurities such as antimony, would make the lead unsuitable for calking. Some cities include chemical lead in their specifications and others do not. In other words, there is no uniformity in the specifications of the larger cities, some of the specifications being entirely too rigid and others too lax.

With the requirements of a good calking lead in mind, we have prepared the enclosed two suggested specifications which might be used alternatively by water departments and water companies, but which require virtually the same lead regardless of which of the two specifications is selected. We are submitting two suggested specifications to permit those water companies familiar with them to use A.S.T.M. specifications whereas others may prefer a briefer recommendation. It is felt that either of these specifications, if adopted, will protect the interests of lead generally by eliminating unsatis-



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factory lead which makes poor joints and causes dissatisfaction with lead. It would also protect our members from the competition of poor lead sold at low prices.

We would like to have your opinion as to (1) whether you think the Association should adopt some sort of a specification for calking lead and (2) your criticism of the enclosed suggested specifications. If standard specifications are adopted by the Association we will attempt to have them accepted by the American Water Works Association, but whether adopted by that Association or not, we will see that water departments and other users of calking lead throughout the country are thoroughly informed about our recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR PIG LEAD FOR CALKING PURPOSES.Specification A

Pig lead for calking purposes shall meet the specifications of the American Society for Testing Materials for pig lead (A.S.T.M. Designation B 29-23, Page 594 of the 1930 Standards, Part 1) except that the lead may be produced from secondary or reworked material, provided that it meet the A.S.T.M. specifications in all other respects.

The A.S.T.M. specifications establish the limit of impurities, the methods of sampling and analysis, method of marking pigs for the identification of the producer and the grade and method of settling claims.

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Specification B

Pig lead for calking purposes shall contain not less than 99.7 per cent pure lead. Impurities shall not exceed the following limits:

Arsenic, Antimony and Tin together	0.015	per cent
Copper	0.05	" "
Zinc	0.002	" "
Iron	0.005	" "
Bismuth	0.25	" "
Silver	0.015	" "

The producer's name or brand shall be clearly cast upon each pig.

Lead shall be of uniform softness and easily calked or driven.