

ALL Soft-Lite Dealers and Distributors MUST Be Certified in U.S. EPA's Mandatory Lead Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program Effective April 22, 2010.

Beginning April 22, 2010, Federal law mandates certification in lead paint safety for all contractors working in structures built pre-1978. THIS INCLUDES WINDOW REPLACEMENT INSTALLATION!

PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION

Certification is to educate contractors how to follow specific work practices under the EPA's Renovate Right Program to prevent lead contamination in homes built before 1978. This certification is required for projects that disturb six feet or more of interior painted surfaces and/or twenty feet or more of exterior painted surfaces. Projects such as window replacement in homes built pre-1978 fall under the EPA's rule for requiring certification. Window replacement may disturb lead based paint and create lead dust that is harmful and potentially FATAL. By following the EPA's methods when dealing with possible exposure to lead paint, certified contractors are not only protecting the customer and their employees, but their business as a whole.

For more information on the EPA's requirements for lead paint safety certification and compliance please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/lead>

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/sbcomplianceguide.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/steps.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/toolkits.htm#renovator>

FINES & PENALTIES

Any contractors or replacement window installers found to be using unsafe lead paint safety practices or who are not certified to work on pre-1978 structures while working on projects within the EPA's guidelines may face serious penalties. Some examples of penalties include civil fines up to \$32,500 for each violation and additional criminal fines of up to \$32,500. If the contractor or window installer is found to have knowingly and willfully disregarded the EPA's rules, they can legally face imprisonment. Between the high costs in fines and the bad reputation that follows, it is enough to completely shut down a business. Some states have already begun to enforce this law and have fined businesses found using unsafe practices when handling lead paint.

To read more about the fines and other penalties, please visit the following web sites:

http://www.agc-oregon.org/public/resource_center/lead_AMEC_2.pdf

http://www.ieetrains.com/docs/RRP_Brochure.pdf

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/222d117e0d297b7d852575ad00630c1b?OpenDocument>

GET CERTIFIED NOW!

If you are a contractor or window installer, **you must be certified by April 22, 2010**. The EPA began accepting and processing applications October 22, 2009. Applications are processed in the order they were received. It may take up to 180 days to approve certification. With over 200,000 applicants expected, the EPA highly encourages to **apply as soon as possible**. At least one individual within the company is required to be certified. The individual applies for the *entire* business. Until at least one individual is certified, the entire company is in default and will not legally be permitted to work in or on pre-1978 built homes! Certification will be valid for five years from the date of successful course completion. There is a \$300 fee to take the certification course. Don't wait! Begin your certification process now!

Soft-Lite does NOT offer training courses!

You may download and complete the application by visiting:

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/firmapp.pdf>

Find your local certification training course! Please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/trainingproviders.htm>

or call: 1-800-424-LEAD (5323)

OHIO renovation professionals may get certified through the following organization:

<http://www.Proohio.org>

OTHER REFERENCE SOURCES:

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/epahudrrmodel.htm>

<http://www.caapts.org/Lead-Based-Paint.aspx>

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/lead/index.html>

<http://www.ieetrains.com>