

On July 1, 2020, the new Maryland dust-lead level standards will go into effect. The table below shows the upcoming changes.

Definition of Lead-Contaminated Dust

Area tested	Current standards	New standards (effective July 1, 2020)
Floor	$\geq 40 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$	$\geq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$
Window sill	$\geq 250 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$	$\geq 100 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$
Window well	$\geq 400 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$	$\geq 100 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$

The new standards apply to ALL dust wipes collected in Maryland. Whether the dust wipes will be used to issue a risk reduction certificate, for post-abatement clearance testing, or in performing a risk assessment, ALL wipes collected on or after July 1, 2020, must meet the new standards. Accordingly, the Form C has been updated; the revised form is attached to this email and will also be posted on the MDE website in the next few days.

All inspectors should verify that their current laboratory is recognized under EPA's [National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program \(NLLAP\)](#) as an accredited lead testing laboratory and that their dust sample analysis method complies with the NLLAP's laboratory quality system requirements. Accredited laboratories are required to demonstrate they can achieve a quantitation limit (reporting limit or minimum reporting limit) of less than or equal to 50% of the lowest action level for dust samples, with the quantitation limit being at least 2 times, but no greater than 10 times the method detection limit. According to EPA, a quantitation limit is a minimum level or quantity of lead that can be measured to a specified accuracy. A method detection limit is the minimum concentration of lead that has a 99% probability of being measured and reported to be greater than zero.

Under the new Maryland dust-lead level standards, the lowest action level for dust samples will be $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$; therefore, your lead testing laboratory must be able to demonstrate:

- Quantitation limits of less than or equal to $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$, and
- Method detection limits of no less than $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ and no greater than $2.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$

In addition, some inspectors may need to use larger sampling areas when collecting dust wipes, in order to meet the new standards. Inspectors should verify with their laboratory.

Questions? Contact Michelle Armiger from the MDE Lead Accreditation & Oversight Division at 410-537-3825 or michelle.armiger@maryland.gov.