

Lead & Cadmium

8/20/2018

Since 1986, when Fiesta® dinnerware was reintroduced, it has been manufactured without the use of raw materials that were purchased for their lead content. Since 1992, all dinnerware manufactured by Homer Laughlin China has been produced without the use of raw materials that were purchased for their lead content. So, for the past 32 years, we have been manufacturing Fiesta® products without lead. And for the last 26 years, all Homer Laughlin products have been manufactured without lead. There are no pallets or bags of leaded material lying around that could be mixed into the current production.

The Homer Laughlin China Company proclaims that the Fiesta® products made since 1986, and all dinnerware since 1992, are lead free. Lead free must be defined and here is our definition of lead free. A California Proposition 65 settlement between Russel Brimer and the Boelter Companies states: "No Detectable lead" shall mean that lead is not detected above two one-hundredths of one percent (0.02%) by weight percent. All raw materials used by The Homer Laughlin China Company meet this requirement.

The Homer Laughlin China Company must abide by the regulations of the FDA and California Proposition 65 in regard to lead and cadmium leaching. Ware is sent to outside independent laboratories for testing according to ASTM C738-94 Standard Test Method for Lead and Cadmium Extracted from Glazed Ceramic Surfaces. THIS IS THE ONLY AUTHORIZED TEST METHOD. XRF IS NOT AN APPROVED TEST FOR DETERMINING THE LEACHABILITY OF LEAD AND CADMIUM. The FDA allows a range of 0.5-3.0ppm for lead and CA Prop 65 0.1-0.226ppm. The Fiesta® products made by The Homer Laughlin China Company exhibit lead leachability of less than 0.002ppm day in and day out as well as year in and year out.

We will freely admit that there are trace amounts of lead in the raw materials that we purchase. We are not purchasing the raw materials for the lead content. Should any ceramic dinner ware company state that they are 100% lead free they are being dishonest. We purchase the same raw materials that they would have purchased and outside analysis by independent laboratories for The Homer Laughlin China Company has always indicated trace amounts of lead.

The Homer Laughlin China Company does purchase raw materials for their cadmium content and we freely admit that we use cadmium in our Fiesta® products. As with lead, we are required by the FDA and CA Prop 65 to test for cadmium leachability. The FDA allows 0.25-0.5ppm of leachable cadmium and CA allows .084-3.164ppm. The analysis performed by outside independent laboratories on Fiesta® products states less than 0.02ppm of leachable cadmium. It is not illegal under state or federal law to use cadmium in the production of ceramic dinner ware.

The Homer Laughlin China Company is in full compliance with the leachability requirement of the FDA and CA Prop 65 for lead and cadmium.

Jim Shaner
Director of Ceramic Engineering
The Homer Laughlin China Company