



Upcoming change to the Modified Risk Reduction, Effective July 1, 2020

Maryland Department of the Environment



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Lead Poisoning Prevention Program



In 2019, Maryland passed the Maryland Healthy Children Act. The law lowered the blood lead level that defines elevated blood lead (“EBL”) from greater than or equal to 10 µg/dl, to greater than or equal to 5 µg/dl, matching the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's blood lead reference level. On July 1, 2020, the events that trigger the modified risk reduction (MRR) standard will change under this 2019 law. Please carefully read the information below.

Currently (prior to July 1, 2020), there are two notifying events that trigger the MRR standard:

1. A Notice of Defect notifying the owner of a pre-1978 rental unit ("Affected Property") about the chipping, peeling, or flaking paint (a “defect”) that exists inside and/or outside of the property.
2. A Notice of EBL notifying the owner of an Affected Property that a child under the age of 6 years old or a pregnant woman living in the property has been diagnosed with a blood lead level of greater than or equal to 10 µg/dl.

These events require the owner to meet the MRR standard, satisfied by performing certain lead hazard reduction treatments and obtaining a new MRR lead inspection certificate within 30 days of receiving a Notice of Defect or Notice of EBL.

Effective July 1, 2020, a Notice of EBL will no longer trigger the MRR standard. A Notice of Defect will serve as the sole trigger for the MRR standard. To explain further:

1. MDE or a local health department is required to perform environmental investigations for a child under the age of 6 years old or pregnant woman diagnosed with a blood lead level of greater than or equal to 5 µg/dl. If during the aforementioned environmental investigation, chipping, peeling, or flaking paint is observed by the inspector and the home is an Affected Property, a Notice of Defect will be issued by MDE or the local health department.
2. Absent a diagnosis of EBL or an environmental investigation, a tenant or any other source may still issue a Notice of Defect to the owner of an Affected Property if chipping, peeling, or flaking paint exists inside and/or outside of the property.

In both cases, the rental owner will be required to meet the MRR standard within 30 days of receiving the Notice of Defect.

If you have questions regarding this email, please contact Jonathan Klanderud from the MDE Lead Compliance Division at 410-537-3825 or jonathan.klanderud@maryland.gov.

