

HISTORY OF COPPER BRAKE LAWS

REGIONAL & NATIONAL EFFORTS

1994 | California study finds that brakes may account for more than 50% of the copper pollution entering San Francisco Bay.

1996 | Brake Pad Partnership (BPP) is formed.

1998 | Manufacturers voluntarily report copper use for top 20 best-selling vehicles.

2003 | BPP begins Castro Valley Creek water quality monitoring project.

IN WASHINGTON

2005–2007 | BPP releases reports and computer models that estimate copper release from brake pads.

2009 | California introduces Senate Bill (SB) 346, the first attempt in the US to mandate a phase-out of copper. It fails the first year.

2010 | Washington passes SB 6557, a brake friction material bill similar to California's. The bill is signed into law and becomes RCW 70.285.

2010 | California passes SB 346.

2011 | Ecology establishes Better Brakes Rule (BBR) Workgroup to develop rule as directed in RCW 70.285.

2012 | Ecology holds public hearings and solicits comments on the proposed rule. Ecology adopts the Better Brakes Rule.

2013 | Brake manufacturers must report the use of copper, nickel, zinc, and antimony in brake friction materials to Ecology starting January 1.

2014 | California proposes informal draft regulations.

2015 | EPA, the Environmental Council of the States, and the brake friction material industry sign an MOU to adopt WA and CA standards for brakes sold in all states.

2015 | All brakes made after January 1 must be certified and marked to indicate that they do not contain asbestos, lead, mercury, cadmium, or chromium (VI). Ecology determines brake friction materials containing less than 0.5% copper are available.

2016 | Ecology convenes a group of experts to determine how best to move forward with a ban on materials containing more than 0.5% copper by weight.

2016 | California proposes formal draft regulations.

2021 | Brakes made after January 1 may not contain more than 5% copper by weight.

proposed

2025 | Brakes made after January 1 may not contain more than 0.5% copper by weight.