

Legionella Risk Assessment



1. Introduction

1.1 Controlling legionella bacteria in water systems.

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal type of pneumonia, contracted by inhaling aerosols containing viable legionella bacteria. Some of the water systems which can create aerosols include:

- hot and cold water systems;
- spa-pool systems;
- evaporative cooling systems; and
- fountains and decorative water features.

Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, it does identify those systems which are most likely to cause infection.

Anyone can develop Legionnaires' disease, but the elderly, smokers, alcoholics, those with cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory and kidney disease are more at risk.

Legionella bacteria are commonly found in water. The bacteria multiply where temperatures are between 20-45°C and nutrients are available. The bacteria are dormant below 20°C and do not survive above 60°C.

1.2 The Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) L8 2013 applies in any undertaking involving a work activity and to premises controlled in connection with a trade, business or other undertaking where water is used or stored, and where there is a means of creating and transmitting water droplets which may be inhaled, thereby creating a reasonably foreseeable risk of legionellosis.

1.3 Responsibility for complying with L8 rests with the 'dutyholder'. In a workplace, this is the employer and any other person who may have control of any part of the premises, e.g. the occupier or owner. In all other premises the person or people in control of the premises will be responsible.

1.4 To comply with their legal duties, the dutyholder should:

- identify and assess sources of risk;
- prepare a scheme for preventing or controlling the risk;
- implement, manage and monitor precautions;
- keep records of the precautions; and
- appoint a person to be managerially responsible.

- 1.5 The dutyholder must ensure that the person who carries out the legionella risk assessment and provides advice on prevention and control of exposure must be competent to do so. An illustration of the levels of service to expect from Service Providers can be found in the Code of Conduct administered by the Legionella Control Association (LCA), which Quantum Compliance is a member of.

2. Quantum Compliance's Approach

- 2.1 Quantum Compliance's experienced consultants, who are all full members of the Water Management Society, will undertake the Legionella risk assessment. Quantum Compliance is also a member of the Legionella Control Association, which is the main third-party accreditation body for companies providing this service.



- 2.2 A written management scheme will then be prepared detailing checks and actions necessary to remove or minimise, so far as is reasonably practicable, any risk identified as a result of the assessment.
- 2.3 The assessment will be reviewed regularly or whenever there is cause to believe that the original assessment may no longer be valid, for example, this may be because of:
- changes to the system or its use;
 - changes to the use of the building;
 - new information on risk or control measures; and
 - results show that control measures are no longer effective.

3. Report Format

- 3.1 The report will be produced to comply with the following statutory guidance and standards:
- Health & Safety Executive's (HSE) Approved Code of Practice L8 2013 Legionnaires' disease The control of legionella bacteria in water systems.
 - HSE publications Legionnaires' disease – technical guidance HSG 274 Part 1 2013, HSG 274 Part 2 2014, HSG 274 Part 3 2013.
 - British Standard BS 8580:2019 Water Quality – Risk Assessments for Legionella control – Code of Practice.
- 3.2 The report will cover the water systems contained within the areas falling under the responsibility of the client and will typically comprise:

Section 1 Executive Summary

- Site Details
- Overall Risk Assessment
- Actions Requiring Immediate Attention

Section 2 Action Plan

Section 3 Asset Identification & Risk Assessment

- Site Particulars

- Incoming Water Supply
- Stored Cold Water Services
- Domestic Hot Water Services
- Other Systems

Section 4 Audit of Management Arrangements, Documentation & Records

- Audit Checklist
- Details of Management Personnel
- Schedule of Recommended Control Measures
- Schedule of Dead Legs & Dead Ends

Section 5 Survey of Water Distribution Systems

Section 6 Schematic Drawings

Section 7 Analytical Test Results

Appendix A Methodology

- Introduction
- Objective and Scope
- Risk Assessment

Appendix B Managerial Responsibilities

- General Responsibilities
- The Written Scheme and this Risk Assessment
- Monitoring and routine inspection
- Record Keeping

Appendix C Resume of Assessors Experience



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