

## CHGL001 Legionella Guidance Notes 2016

As an existing or potential new client of CHG South West Water Treatment Services these guidance notes are a brief and simplified review of the detailed guidance set out in BS8580:2010, L8 "Legionnaires' disease, the control of legionella bacteria in water systems, approved code of practice and guidance" and HSG 274/Part 2 "legionnaires' disease". Please refer to these documents for further detail and clarification.

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### Who is this guidance for?

- **Duty holder** – the legally responsible person for the building/users (e.g. Managing Director).
- **Manager of the site/responsible person** – day to day responsibility for the building/users.
- **Company Health & safety representative/responsible person**

### What is Legionnaires' disease?

- Legionnaires' disease is an acute form of pneumonia.
- The bacteria is found in most water supplies at some time.
- Traditional water disinfection processes do not remove it.
- It cannot be prevented from entering a water system without further treatment – therefore often the emphasis will be on controlling the conditions that allow it to proliferate to dangerous levels. Temperature, time and nutrients are all areas that can be controlled.
- It only enters a human through inhaling water droplets in which the bacteria is present.
- Cooling towers, showers, spa baths, jet washes, misting machines are examples of processes in which water is aerated and can be inhaled.
- On average 10% of those infected die (age, sex, smoking and general health are all relevant to survival rates).
- On average there are 150 cases of infected people annually in Great Britain. Outbreaks in the South West include a factory in Glastonbury and a hotel near Chard.

### What does the law state?

Legionnaires' disease comes within the Health & Safety Act 1974 and the Management of Health & Safety at work regulations 1999, but is more specifically detailed in the COSHH 2002 regulations.

**HEATING &  
PLUMBING  
ELECTRICAL  
RENEWABLES  
WATER SERVICES**



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## Schedule of required actions:

- Identify duty holder, responsible person (day-to-day management – must have control of a suitable budget to act upon recommendations).
- Identify/employ competent person to carry out a risk assessment. This can be done through provision of an LCA registration certificate or by checking the LCA website for a list of registered companies.
- Risk assessment :-
  1. Scope of what is covered/not covered.
  2. Communication structure/emergency procedures.
  3. Schematic diagram of water system.
  4. Inspection/condition reports on main elements – tanks, calorifiers, pipework, TMVs, showers etc.
  5. Assessment of existing control measures/records.
  6. Identification of risk(s) and the level of severity.
  7. Recommendations of remedial works to remove/reduce risks.
  8. Recommendation of control measures/monitoring.
- Implement recommendations of risk assessment (using internal/external competent person(s) as required).
- Implement control measures/monitoring - internal or external competent person(s).
- Implement management level oversight of the entire process.
- Annually review action required:
  1. Full risk assessment only required every two years unless: major changes have been made to the water system, change of use of the water system, recorded legionella outbreak.
  2. Annual inspection required of tanks and general system so recommendations can be made on monitoring and controls (tank cleaning etc.).
- Implement a comprehensive record keeping of all works associated with legionella control

**Fulfilling the legal duty** of protecting employees and end users from the threat of Legionnaires' disease **is an on-going process** of monitoring, inspecting, control measures and reviewing the processes and systems to ensure the correct conditions are kept to prevent the proliferation of the bacteria.

Please contact John Hunt if you have any questions or would like us to provide you with any services to help you meet your legal duties.

