

Legionellosis Policy

Introduction

Legionellosis is a pneumonia illness, which can be fatal. There are various sources of the organism and routes of transmission to humans. The bacterium is widespread in natural fresh water. The principal route of infection is through inhalation of the bacteria, which enters into the lungs.

EMA has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure, as far as practicable, the health and safety and welfare of its employees, and visitors to its premises. It also has duties under the Health & Safety Commission Approved Code of Practice & Guidance L8 2001 to effectively manage Legionella within its owned or managed premises.

Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure adequate and effective control of water systems in order to minimise the risk of Legionellosis.

The policy applies wherever water is stored and used in a way which may create a reasonably foreseeable risk of legionellosis, such as:

- Water systems which incorporate an evaporative condenser.
- Hot water systems.
- Hot and cold water services in premises where occupants are particularly susceptible.
- Humidifiers and air washers that create a spray of water droplets and in which the water temperatures are likely to exceed 20°C.
- Spa baths and pools in which warm water is deliberately agitated and recirculated.

EMA will put in place measures to protect employees from the risks of Legionellosis, these measures will include:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of legionella.
- Implementing control measures where appropriate.
- Staff involved in the management of water systems will be trained.

Company Responsibilities:

- EMA must ensure that legionella risk assessments are carried out for all premises.
- Ensure accurate records of assessments and controls are kept.
- Prioritise and implement any necessary improvements.
- EMA will make arrangements to regularly maintain, inspect and test water systems.

Employee Responsibilities:

- Follow all systems of work laid down for their safety
- Make full and proper use of equipment provided for their safety.
- Report any defects in systems, practices or equipment.
- Attend training, when required to do so.
- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others.
- Inform their manager, when they believe that there is a risk of injury.

Non Compliance

All employees have a role to play in enforcing the policy and are required to deal with any observed or reported breaches. Should employees feel apprehensive about their own safety in regard to addressing any breach, they should seek senior management support.

Failure to comply with this policy may lead to a lack of clarity over job role, learning needs or expected standards of performance, resulting in reduced effectiveness or efficiency, underperformance and putting service delivery at risk.

Any member of staff refusing to observe the policy will be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with the Company's Disciplinary Policy up to and including dismissal.