

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. Water systems which can create aerosols and therefore present a potential risk of Legionella bacteria dissemination 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 and the immunosuppressed are at greater risk.

In addition to Legionnaires' disease, Legionella bacteria can also cause the less severe illnesses such as Pontiac fever and Lochgoilhead fever. Illness caused by Legionella bacteria is collectively known as Legionellosis

Legionella bacteria is naturally occurring are commonly found in rivers, streams and soil but rarely become problematic in the natural environment as conditions are seldom favourable for their growth and dissemination. The bacteria multiply where temperatures are between 20-45°C and suitable nutrients are available. Stagnation and low movement of water also encourages Legionella growth. 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 'duty holder'. 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 duty holder 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 duty holder 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 William Martin is a member of.

2. William Martin's Approach

- 2.1 William Martin's experienced consultants, who are all full members of the Water Management Society, will undertake the Legionella risk assessment. William Martin is also a member of the Legionella Control Association, which is the main third-party accreditation body for companies providing this service and is specifically referenced in the ACoP L8.



A written management scheme must be prepared and implemented in line with the Legionella risk assessment report giving detail on checks and actions necessary to remove or minimise, so far as is reasonably practicable, any risk identified as a result of the assessment. Suitable records must be held, as advised by the Legionella risk assessment report, to demonstrate that the scheme has been correctly implemented.

2.3 The assessment should be reviewed regularly as advised by the risk assessment itself 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
- results of routine checks show that control measures are no longer effective
- changes to key personnel
- a case of Legionnaires' disease/Legionellosis is associated with the system

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 2024, HSG 274 Part 2 2024, HSG 274 Part 3 2024.
- 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:

- Executive Summary
- Action Plan to Achieve Legislative Compliance
- Property Details
- Risk Assessment Questions and Observations
- Layout and Set-up of System
- Survey of Water Distribution Systems
- Supporting Photographs
- Schematic Drawings (if instructed)
- Analytical Test Results (if sampling instructed)



Compliance without compromise

We create next-generation building compliance by fusing clever consultancy with cutting-edge technology, so our clients can grow. Our products include:




Consultancy: Unparalleled expertise to safeguard your people and property.



Meridian: Our online compliance and risk management platform gives you total visibility.



Prosure360: Take control of your supply chain, confidently and efficiently.

 0203 819 8829

 enquiries@wmcompliance.co.uk

 wmcompliance.co.uk

Health & Safety • Legionella • Fire Safety • Asbestos • Contractor Management • Accessibility • Environmental • Training

London Office, 20 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7HN

Registered Office, C/O Marlowe Plc, 20 Grosvenor Place, London, England SW1X 7HN

William Martin is part of the SRC Group. Our other brands are Elogs and Barbour EHS.