

## Section 2.13

### Legionella

#### Purpose

- 1) We are responsible for ensuring our water systems are safe from legionella and this procedure is intended to explain how we plan to reduce the risk of legionella growth in our staffed premises water tanks and pipework.

#### References

- 1) Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974
- 2) Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- 3) Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 as amended
- 4) L8 Legionnaires' Disease - The control of legionella bacteria in water systems, Approved Code of Practice and Guidance
- 5) INDG458 Legionnaires' Disease – A brief guide for dutyholders
- 6) BS 8580 Risk Assessments for Legionella Control
- 7) KHA Legionella Management Scheme – [Appendix 2.7](#)

#### Comment

- 1) Legionnaires' Disease is a type of pneumonia caused by inhaling airborne water droplets containing the viable legionella organism. Certain groups of people are known to be at higher risk of contracting Legionnaires' Disease; for example, men appear more susceptible than women, as do those over 45 years of age, smokers, alcoholics, diabetics and those with cancer or chronic respiratory or kidney disease (Ref: L8 Legionnaires' Disease).
- 2) Water temperatures in the range of 20 – 45°C favour the growth of legionella in water systems. It is uncommon to find high levels of legionella bacteria below 20°C and it will not survive above 60°C. In addition to temperature control there are other methods of protection which include ionisation, UV light, chlorine dioxide, ozone treatment or thermal disinfection.

## Procedures

- 1) A suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment at each staffed premise will be carried out to identify and assess the risk of legionella occurring from water sources on the organisation's premises. This will normally be carried out by a specialist competent contractor.
- 2) The Legionella Management Scheme (Appendix 2.7) details how we fulfil our legal obligation in the prevention of the Legionella bacteria.
- 3) The appointed Legionella contractor will ensure the electronic Legionella Log Book is completed to record regular inspections and maintenance of the water systems as outlined in the Risk Assessment which can be accessed through the contractor's web portal. Legionella awareness training will be carried out by Kingdom's Legionella contractor. The H&S Officer will arrange for the relevant training.
- 4) The following principles apply in respect of our management of water systems:
  - Hot water stored in tanks will be at a temperature of at least 60°C.
  - Water pipes will be as short and direct as possible and pipes and tanks will be effectively insulated. Tanks will be protected against contamination and materials used which do not encourage legionella growth.
  - Hot water will reach taps at 50°C within 1 minute of running.
  - Cold water will be stored and distributed at a temperature of less than 20°C.
- 4) In staffed premises where water is used or stored for consumption in any devices, e.g. water coolers, tea urns, drinks machines etc., the responsible person within that staffed premise will ensure an effective system of regular cleaning and disinfecting will be introduced, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.