

Professionals in Occupational hygiene, health, safety and risk

Services and Case Studies – Legionella Management

What is legionella?

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal pneumonia caused by **legionella bacteria**. Here are some of the facts:

- Legionnaires disease is the most well known and serious form of a group of diseases collectively known as legionellosis
- The inhalation of small droplets of water contaminated by the bacteria may give rise to infection. **Legionella bacteria** are common in natural watercourses such as rivers and ponds – but the bacteria will contaminate and proliferate in other water systems such as cooling towers, hot and cold water systems, humidifiers and spa baths.
- Well known outbreaks of legionnaire's disease have occurred in or near hospitals, hotels, office blocks and factories. Other affected areas have included schools, sheltered accommodation, garden centres, sports centres and cruise liners.
- Any building which has an 'at risk' system (including normal hot and cold water system) is legally required to conduct a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, nominate someone to be responsible for management (the Responsible Person), and put in place an adequate maintenance regime (called a 'written scheme') in line with the **Approved Code of Practice L8 "The control of legionella bacteria in water systems"** (ACOP L8).

What do I have to do?

The Duty Holders responsibility can be discharged by:-

- Conducting a suitable and sufficient **risk assessment**
- Having an adequate **policy** in place to manage this risk
- Carrying out **remedial works** and putting in place an adequate **written scheme** based on the findings of the risk assessment
- Selecting **competent contractors** to do risk assessments and ongoing work and **auditing compliance** of the written scheme
- Managing change as the building changes to avoid new risks
- **Training staff** and providing adequate resources
- **Ensuring the risk assessment is updated** as required and no longer than **every two years**.

Envex has many years experience in helping many different clients, across all sectors, meet their needs in all these areas. We advise you on what you need to do and how far you need to go.



**Practical solutions
From experience**

A member of the PHSC plc Group.

Providing health, safety and environmental management solutions to clients across the UK

The Hyelm Group, London

"I have found Envex to be an extremely reliable and efficient company. The staff are always willing to go that extra mile to make sure projects exceed expectations. "

**Simon Wright
Property and Services Director**

Envex can also provide you with:-

- A range of occupational hygiene services, including workplace exposure surveys, vibration / noise risk assessments, and indoor air quality monitoring
- A "one-stop shop" for all of your health & safety needs
- A range of surveying and asbestos management services
- An extensive portfolio of training courses (IOSH, NEBOSH, CIEH accredited, or bespoke courses)

Legionella Risk Assessments

The risk assessment process is the most important part – it is all about understanding where you are now and what you need to do in future. L8 ACoP “The control of legionella bacteria in water systems” states that a suitable and sufficient risk assessment is required to identify and assess the risk of exposure to legionella bacteria from work activities and water systems on the premises. Our consultants have the required level of competency to carry out a risk assessment, and the methodology used will follow the BSRIA Guide to Legionellosis Risk Assessment.

Projects completed

Over 150 different properties under the responsibility of West Berkshire Council including offices, leisure centres, museums, numerous schools, libraries etc Other Schools e.g. Crosfields School (Reading), Ufton Court Education Trust (Ufton Nervet, Berkshire).

Hospitals e.g. Shotley Bridge Hospital and Darlington Memorial Hospital
Quality Managed Homes – residential blocks of flats requiring management of the shared services.

Remedial works service

Implementing remedial works is the first part of getting control. Envex have partnership arrangements with contractors we have approved in order to make this process simple for our clients. We have negotiated discounted rates to allow us to manage the delivery of this work without the client incurring greater costs. This is an optional service which we now provide based on demand from clients. We ensure that you get what you need and that the work is specified and delivered properly.

Recent clients include - Denefield school, Trinity school, Spurcroft school

Ongoing water management services

A written scheme for controlling the risk of exposure is implemented where a reasonably foreseeable risk cannot be avoided. We currently manage water services for a significant number of West Berkshire schools using the same partnership approach outlined for remedial works. We also review the data obtained from the contractor, so you get an expert input, including the results of water sampling, to ensure that where action is taken it will be as effective as possible. Our support

clients also get free access to our library of procedures for re-commissioning systems or completing thermal disinfection.

Clients include: Little Heath Comprehensive, Kennet Valley Primary, Theale Green Community, Willink school

Responsible Person / Awareness Training

L8 ACoP states that anybody appointed to carry out the control measures and strategies should be suitably instructed and trained. They should be properly trained to a standard which ensures that tasks are carried out in a safe, technically competent manner. We run two courses: One day training for the Responsible Person and; Half-day Legionella Awareness Training for maintenance staff, caretakers etc (for simple buildings this is normally enough for the responsible person as well). Our experienced trainers are qualified to deliver the level of training required.

Projects completed

We have delivered training courses to a wide variety of clients across all sectors. Recently we have trained over 100 staff associated with West Berkshire District Council.

“A very complex subject made much clearer!”

Sue Plackett – Head Teacher, Cold Ash St Marks School.

“An excellent days training, informative and user-friendly.”

Carolyn Mallard, London Borough of Camden

Auditing of contractors and legionella management

The Duty Holder retains responsibility for the quality of the work contracted out to contractors e.g. risk assessment and disinfection / monitoring work done in support of the written scheme. We have provided clients with due diligence audits to provide the Duty Holder/ Responsible Person with the assurance that the risk assessment is suitable and sufficient, the written scheme in line with ACOP L8 and that ongoing work is being done to the quality required under ACOP L8 and other relevant guidance.

Projects completed

Fujitsu Service UK Ltd, Nexus Community (Leisure Centre).