

Approved Code of Practice – Legionella Control Cleaner

A précis of L8 where applicable to shower heads

Identify the Risk: *Risk Assessment*

Is there a reasonably foreseeable potential for harm to health from exposure to Legionella-containing aerosols (that is “a solution in the air”)? What measures are required to prevent, or adequately control, the risk? Are Legionella bacteria present? Are conditions suitable for growth of Legionella? (A temperature of 20-45°C? A source of nutrients – could be body fats, debris, etc.?) Can an aerosol be generated? Can people be exposed to the aerosol? Review the Risk Assessment regularly (at least every two years).

Manage the Risk: *Management Responsibilities / Training Competence*

A person must be appointed to take managerial responsibility and to provide supervision for the implementation of the control measures. Persons carrying out the Risk Assessment and drawing up and implementing the Control Measures must be competent to do so. Staff responsibilities and lines of communication must be properly defined and clearly documented.

Preventing or Controlling the Risk: *Implementing Control Measures*

There must be a Written Scheme for controlling the risk from exposure.

The Scheme should include:

Description of the correct and safe operation of the plant. The precautions to be taken. Checks to ensure the efficacy of the Scheme. Remedial action to be taken if the Scheme is shown to be ineffective.

Typical precautions include:

Controlling the generation and dissemination of aerosols. Avoiding water temperature and conditions favourable for Legionella. Avoiding water stagnation. Avoiding system materials which support microbial growth. Maintaining the cleanliness of the system and the water in it. Using appropriate water treatment. Following recommended cleaning schedules.

Monitoring and routine inspection of the system should include:

- Checking the condition and performance of the plant.
- Inspecting accessible parts of the system for damage and signs of contamination.
- Monitoring to ensure the treatment regime continues to control to the required standard.

These lists are not exclusive and must be considered by the competent person to assess each individual site.