

# Water Risk Assessments

**Water can be a potential cause of disease if its not maintained regularly and properly.**

Legionella is an infection caused by breathing in small droplets of water contaminated by the bacteria. The disease can be fatal in some cases. Man-made water systems, such as hot and cold systems in large offices, hotels and factories and cooling systems, provide the ideal conditions for the bacteria to grow, especially if systems are not maintained. In the UK there are approximately 300 cases reported annually with approx 14% fatalities.

To prevent any unnecessary danger to human health, all water services should be routinely checked for temperatures, water demand and inspected for cleanliness and use. The frequency of inspection and maintenance depends on the system and the risk it presents.

## WHY CARRY OUT A WATER RISK ASSESSMENT?

The basis of British health and safety law is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The Act sets out the general duties which employers have towards employees and members of the public, in regard to health, safety and welfare at work places. Under general health and safety law, all employers and the owner of the premises have to consider the risks from legionella that may affect staff or members of the public and take suitable precautions.

Risk assessments need to be carried out to comply with the law, in particular health and safety requirements. No testing should be carried out until a risk assessment has been undertaken. Legionella testing should be carried out at least on an annual basis and a water risk assessment at least two years and/or each time there are major changes to the system itself. Monthly monitoring may be carried out to validate the risk assessment once undertaken.

## BENEFITS OF THE SERVICE

elecheck<sup>^</sup> provide water treatment solutions and consultancy services to industry and commerce throughout the UK. It is our aim to ensure our customers systems and management policies comply with all the current legislation.

We achieve this through detailed site visits and the submission of risk assessments, as well as sampling of water for specific analysis. We then highlight areas of risk. Lastly we can propose a full remedial action plan to bring our clients processes, systems and management procedures in line with the legislation.

elecheck<sup>^</sup> can offer the following services - routine water testing, risk assessments, bacterial and environmental monitoring, planned preventative maintenance and sterilisation and chlorination.

We provide a comprehensive survey and recommendation package to suit all. We will establish a suitable treatment regime to ensure compliance with ACOP L8, Workplace Directive and other relevant legislation.

## WHY USE ELECHECK?

- ✓ A 'one stop shop' for all your compliance requirements
- ✓ A nationwide company with punctual, polite and efficient 'local' engineers
- ✓ Happy to work outside of 'normal' hours to ensure minimum disruption to business
- ✓ 99% of our clients would recommend us to others\*
- ✓ We give advice in straightforward everyday language – without all the jargon
- ✓ Registered, approved and backed by leading industry bodies

\* Customer satisfaction survey 2007

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.elecheck.co.uk](http://www.elecheck.co.uk)

This information has been produced as guidance only and are not definitive or intended for specific reference. Please refer to the following for more information.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974  
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1989  
Notification of Cooling Towers and Evaporative Condensers Regulations 1992  
(HSC) ACOP L8—Approved code of Practice and Guidance "Legionnaires' disease: The Control of legionella bacteria in water systems"  
Figures and facts taken from Accepta website

Pictures 1, 4 & 5 - All water services should be routinely checked. 2 - elecheck<sup>^</sup> has regular inspections in place for high risk areas such as hotels, where this picture was taken. 3 - Legionella bacteria.

