

Cooling Tower Inspection: Matters of Concern Found by HSE

Due to difficulties in obtaining clearance allowing widespread distribution of the photographs contained in this presentation a summary has been provided.

This presentation provided an overview of some of HSE's recent visits to companies operating cooling towers. The slides contain visual evidence of a variety of faults present during inspections by Regulatory Inspectors. The faults were in relation to creation and failure to control aerosols, which are the carrier for the Legionella bacteria. Also found were the presence of sediment, sludge, scale, corrosion and other material within the system which are thought to play an important role in harbouring and providing favourable conditions in which Legionella bacteria may grow.

Examples of faults present are

- Leaks from a cooling tower.
- Exterior damage to cladding.
- Gaps in side screening, pond side walls.
- Open ponds.
- Moss/grass growth.
- Damaged drift eliminators.
- Areas of rust which can be a source of food for Legionella.

In the opinion of the Inspector, with some training and experience and a little common sense these faults are not difficult to spot.