

## **Programme of interventions for controlling Legionella risks in workplaces 2013-14: half-year report**

### Background

The purpose of the programme and details regarding its delivery are described at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/hseboard/2013/300113/pjanb1309.pdf>.

A fundamental feature of the programme is that it utilises the range of intervention approaches available to HSE and local authorities (LAs) and that these are used in a targeted and proportionate manner that reflects the level of risk associated with different water systems. These include activities such as the production of guidance and information material; inspections of evaporative cooling plant and engagement with key stakeholders with an interest in Legionella risk management.

### Guidance and information

In response to Professor Ragnar Löfstedt's independent report of health and safety legislation and recommendation that HSE should review all its Approved Codes of Practice, the L8 ACOP has been reviewed and updated. The revised ACOP and guidance on regulations is due to be published end November 2013. The technical guidance will be updated and published separately as a health and safety guide (HSG274) to comprise three sections: evaporative cooling systems, hot and cold water systems and other risk systems.

A review of the current guidance on the safe management of spa pools [http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1200471665170?p=1158945066455](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1200471665170?p=1158945066455) is underway. The review is being undertaken by HSE and Public Health England and will encompass the views of GB industry bodies with particular interest in these systems.

### Inspections of evaporative cooling plant

654 inspections at sites operating evaporative cooling plant have been undertaken by HSE and LA inspectors from April-September 2013, where checks were focussed on: risk assessment; written scheme of control; implementation and management of control measures and; record keeping <http://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/assets/docs/cooling-tower-programme-inspection-pack.pdf>. To date, 188 improvement notices have been issued to duty holders at around 16% of the sites inspected, with the majority being for the lack of effective implementation of control measures. 5 prohibition notices have been served (3 for a lack of safe access to the cooling plant and 2 for inadequate control). At 465 sites, no formal enforcement was taken.

### Stakeholder engagement

A range of activities have been undertaken to engage business and trade organisations including briefing meetings held with several stakeholders prior to commencement of the programme – examples include the; the Legionella Control Association (LCA); the Chemicals and Downstream Oil Industries Forum and; Energy UK. Subsequent stakeholder engagement events have been held in conjunction with the Royal Society for Public Health (May 2013) and the LCA (May 2013 and Sept 2013).

Further events are planned in the second half of the year that include LCA/HSE regional events to be held in North East England, London and the Midlands, and others with bodies such as the Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management, Spatex and the British Association of Chemical Specialties.

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<sup>i</sup> In July 2012, HSE released a safety notice ([www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/coolingtowers.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/coolingtowers.htm)) targeted at operators of evaporative cooling plant, reminding them of their duties to manage risks effectively and providing simple advice on how this can be achieved. This was followed up, in September 2012, by the issue of a second safety notice ([www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/legionella2.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/legionella2.htm)), which was targeted at the operators of other Legionella risk systems, such as hot and cold water systems in buildings and spa pools.