

WATERWIDE

Special points of interest:

- The HSC-L8 ACOP outlines the legal requirements for The Control of Legionella Bacteria in water systems
- HSC-L8 ACOP applies to caravan and camping site owners, including fixed caravan sites
- At WATERWIDE we take pride in looking after our smallest clients with the same degree of interest and integrity as we do our largest clients.

CLEAN & CHLORINATION OF CARAVAN PARK WATER STORAGE TANKS

Providers of residential accommodation, such as **Caravan Parks and Camping Sites**, who are responsible for the water systems on their premises, need to be aware of the **Legal** requirements outlined in the HSC-L8 *Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and Guidance—Legionnaires Disease: The Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems*.

The ACOP requires a Risk assessment of the status of the water system and recommends remedial actions and an ongoing monitoring and control program for the water system.

Legionella Bacteria can multiply in hot or cold water systems and storage tanks and then be spread eg. in spray from showers and taps. Water storage tanks on caravan parks and camping sites often supply water to shower and toilet blocks, thus presenting a risk.

Caravan parks and camping sites often undergo long periods of shutdown or **low use** during the winter period and this further increases the **risk** of legionella bacteria as well as other potentially dangerous bacteria such as faecal bacteria from rodent/bird droppings.

It is important therefore that any water storage tanks conform to the water supply regulations and associated tap/shower outlets are kept **clean**. WATERWIDE recommends that the tanks and associated outlets undergo a Clean and Chlorination **at least** annually and specifically after a long period of shutdown or low use.

The Clean and Chlorination process involves draining the system, cleaning the tanks and outlets and then chlorinating the system to kill off any bacteria present. The system is then drained, flushed and refilled with fresh water ready for use.

WATERWIDE undertakes this task and provides a full report including a chlorination certificate and digital photographs.

This process of Clean and Chlorination helps to ensure **CONTROL** of bacteria and demonstrates compliance with the legal requirements outlined in the HSC-L8 ACOP.



Poor quality water from a low use outlet

MICROBIOLOGICAL MONITORING

At WATERWIDE we advocate quarterly microbiological monitoring of the sentinel outlets. This is over and above the specific requirements laid out in HSC-L8 but does help to demonstrate **CONTROL** of the water system.

General bacterial counts give information on general water quality and water turn over.

E Coli and Coliform organisms give specific indications as to the likelihood of pathogenic bacteria being present in the water. Whilst unlikely in a direct mains supply, the presence of Coliforms are used as pathogenic indicator organisms. As Coliform organisms are usually associated with pathogenic bacteria and are more persistent and in generally higher numbers in the environment it is easier to assess water for these organisms than the usually low numbers and not very persistent pathogenic bacteria. Coliforms may find their way into water tanks for example by way of rodent or pigeon faeces or even by the ingress of insects.



WATERWIDE can carry out **all** requirements with regards to microbiological analysis, including, for example, Legionella and TVC analysis. **All tests are NAMAS accredited.**

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CODE OF CONDUCT
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LEGIONELLA - THE FACTS

- Legionella are bacteria that are common in natural (rivers and lakes etc.) and artificial water systems eg. Hot and cold water systems (storage tanks, pipework, taps and showers).
- Legionella can be found in large water systems such as in factories, hospitals and cooling towers etc but they can also live in smaller water supply systems used in homes and other residential accommodation such as caravan sites and guest houses.
- Other sources of Legionella include spa and whirlpool baths, humidifiers and fire-fighting systems eg. sprinklers.
- Legionella can survive in low temperatures, but thrive at temperatures between 20°C and 45°C. High temperatures of 60°C and over will kill them.
- Legionnaires disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused by the inhalation of legionella bacteria.

Reference: Legionnaires Disease - Essential Information for Providers of Residential Accommodation - HSE

If you have any questions or comments regarding water related topics, please telephone, fax or e-mail

TECHNICAL FORUM - LEGIONELLA IN SPA POOLS

In 1999 a demonstration Spa Pool was responsible for a Legionella outbreak at a Dutch flower show. More recently, there was a smaller outbreak under similar circumstances in a West Country Hotel where 20 cases were identified resulting in 2 deaths.

Contributory factors included design errors where by the pool could not be drained fully and poor on going monitoring where correct halogen treatment levels were not met routinely.

In a further survey of 50 public spa pools in London, Legionella pneumophila was found in 24% of the samples of which one in three of those testing positive for Legionella had acceptable TVC, E.Coli and Pseudomonas results. This is a clear indication that testing for general bacteria cannot be taken as a guide to the likely presence of Legionella and that regular Legionella testing should be carried out **in its own right.**

WATERWIDE have specialists involved in carrying out Legionella Risk Assessment programs. For more information, please contact us.

** Information kindly supplied by Dr J Kurtz.. OBS*

