

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

Legionella and Legionnaires Disease Awareness

This Legionella and Legionnaires' Disease Awareness Training course will help duty holders understand their legal responsibilities in relation to controlling legionella risks in man-made water systems, including evaporative cooling systems, hot and cold water systems, and other risk systems like spa pools. It explains the laws and regulations that apply to legionella, including the guidance contained in ACOP L8, the common risks posed by man-made water systems, how to carry out a risk assessment of legionella, and what control measures they may need to implement.

On completion of the course, you will understand what you need to do to minimise the risks of legionella bacteria in your water systems, so those who may be exposed to legionella risks are protected from harm.

Module One: Introduction to Legionella and Legionnaires' Disease

This module explains how legionella bacteria can grow in water systems and how Legionnaires' disease can affect people who are exposed to the bacteria, particularly those who are at an increased risk. It also covers some COVID-19 considerations, as temporary business closures can allow water systems to stagnate and increase the risk of legionella developing.

- What is legionella and where does it come from?
- Which water systems are at risk of legionella?
- How do people contract Legionnaires' disease?
- Symptoms of Legionnaires' disease
- Who is most at risk of legionella and Legionnaires' disease?
- How is Legionnaires' disease diagnosed and treated?
- Case study
- Legionella responsibilities during COVID-19

Module Two: Legal Responsibilities of Duty Holders

This module discusses the various pieces of legislation that relate to legionella control in workplaces, as well as the ACOP L8 guidance document. It will help duty holders understand how to comply with their responsibilities and minimise legionella risks in their water systems.

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act
- Responsibilities of duty holders under the HSW Act
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations
- Duties of designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers, and installers under the HSW Act
- Employee responsibilities under the HSW Act and MHSWR
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations
- The Approved Code of Practice L8
- The Notification of Cooling Towers and Evaporative Condensers Regulations
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations

Module Three: Legionella Risks in Man-Made Water Systems

This module explains how man-made water systems can pose legionella risks. It provides a comprehensive but not exhaustive list of water systems that may be at risk and why. It also discusses the importance of considering systems as a whole, including all their features.

- Evaporative cooling systems
- Hot and cold water systems
- Other risk systems
- Spa pools
- Assessing the risks

Module Four: Risk Assessment for Legionella

This module discusses how to carry out the five steps of a risk assessment for legionella. It explains what exactly a risk assessment entails and who is responsible for carrying it out, and provides some legionella-specific advice for each of the steps so you know what to consider for your water systems. It also discusses schematic diagrams and how they may be used.

- Who has duties to carry out risk assessments?
- Risk assessment requirements
- What is a risk assessment?
- Important phrases and terminology
- Competent person
- Step 1: Identify the hazards
- Step 2: Determine who might be harmed and how
- Step 3: Evaluate the risks and implement controls
- Step 4: Record your findings
- Step 5: Monitor, review, and update the assessment

Module Five: Controlling Legionella Risks

This module describes the control measures you may need to consider for your water systems, to ensure legionella bacteria growth is prevented. This includes correct installation, use and operation, maintenance and inspection, and cleaning and disinfection. It also discusses the importance of record keeping and specific considerations for properties rented to tenants.

- The role of the competent person
- Maintaining staffing levels and knowledge
- Design and commissioning of water systems
- Key precautions
- Written scheme for controlling legionella risks
- Operation of water systems
- Monitoring and inspection
- Cleaning and disinfecting water systems
- Record keeping
- Controlling water systems in domestic properties
- Training, instruction, and communication

Aims of the training

By the end of this course, you will understand:

- Where legionella bacteria come from, how people develop Legionnaires' disease and how it affects a person's health.
- How legionella bacteria can multiply in man-made water systems.
- The legal responsibilities of duty holders regarding the prevention and monitoring of legionella risks.
- How duty holders should carry out a risk assessment to identify and evaluate how to control legionella hazards.
- The main control measures that are advised to reduce the risks of legionella.
- The importance of continually monitoring, maintaining, and updating legionella control measures.