



**Persimmon**

Health, Safety  
& Environment  
Department

# Preventing Legionnaires Disease Standards



Authorised by: HS&E Director

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STD: Preventing Legionnaires Disease  
Standards

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# 1. Introduction

**Purpose:** These health and safety standards aim to prevent Legionnaires' disease on site.

## What is Legionnaires' Disease?

It's a pneumonia-like illness caused by Legionella bacteria. It can be potentially fatal, and everyone is at risk.

## Higher Risk Groups:

- People over 45 years old
- Smokers and heavy drinkers
- People with chronic respiratory or kidney disease
- Anyone with an impaired immune system

# 2. Legionella on site

Legionella bacteria can grow in any water system. However, it's unlikely to be found on our construction sites because:

- The bacteria grow in water between 20-45°C.
- Our cold-water systems are usually below 20°C.
- Water doesn't stay stagnant in pipes for long due to constant use.
- Holiday shutdowns usually happen during colder months.





### 3. Preventing legionella

#### Cold Water Systems:

- Keep cold water pipes below 20°C. If pipes are exposed to the sun, insulate them to prevent heating.
- If water has been standing in pipes for over a week, flush the water for 5 minutes. Open taps slowly to avoid spraying water. Wear an FFP3 face mask and clean the sink and area with disinfectant.

#### Hot Water Systems:

- Set all hot water outlets to at least 50°C to prevent bacteria growth.

#### Stored Water/ Water Containers:

- For 'Oasis' type units with built-in storage tanks, keep them clean and sealed to prevent organic matter growth.
- Do not drink water from these units. Provide bottled water for drinking.





## 4. Stock plots

### Managing Stock Plots:

- Unmanaged stock plots are the biggest risk for legionella, but good management can minimise this risk.

### Steps to Follow:

- If a stock plot has not been used for over a week, the site manager must ensure each tap and shower is flushed for at least 5 minutes, and toilets are flushed.
- Remove shower heads and place hoses in the bath to prevent standing water.
- The person doing the flushing must wear an FFP3 face mask and disposable gloves.
- Bathrooms and toilets must be well-ventilated during flushing.
- Set hot water in stock plots to 50°C or higher.
- Before handing over keys to customers, flush the property again.
- The site manager must record all flushing activities on the weekly site manager checksheet.

## 5. Site welfare with showers

If the site welfare facilities have showers and they have not been used for over a week, the flushing steps described above need to be followed. This must also be documented on the weekly site manager checksheet.

The shower head should be removed and immersed in a solution of bleach and clean water for an hour, every 3 months. The shower heads must be rinsed with clean water before being reinstalled.





## 6. Managing and Monitoring

Site management must continuously monitor water systems to prevent conditions that could lead to legionella growth.

The Group Health, Safety & Environment (HS&E) Department will ensure compliance with these standards through regular site inspections.

## 7. Further Reading

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/what-is.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l8.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg458.pdf>



8. Document Version Information

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