



Connecticut Department of Public Health Guidance

Return to Service Recommendations for Cooling Towers Following a Water Interruption or Cooling Tower Shutdown to Minimize Risk of Legionellosis Associated With Building Water Systems

Environmental Health Section • April 2018

This information is based upon communication with the CDC and ASHRAE Guideline 12-2000, *Minimizing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems*.

1. Remove accessible solid debris from cooling tower basins, sumps, remote storage tanks.
2. Execute one of the two biocide treatments described below:
 - a. Treat with the biocide that had been used prior to shutdown. Utilize the services of the water treatment supplier. The residual must be held at 4 to 5 mg/L (ppm) for at least six hours. Measure residual using standard commercial water test kits or meters.
 - b. Treat the cooling tower system with sodium hypochlorite to a level of 4 to 5 mg/L (ppm) **FREE** chlorine residual at a pH of 7.0 to 7.6. The residual must be held at 4 to 5 mg/L (ppm) for at least six hours. Measure residual using standard commercial water test kits or meters.
3. **Check injection systems to make sure that the chemical feed stations are enabled and working properly. Sometimes these systems require a manual re-start after a cooling tower shutdown.** Even if systems are managed remotely, all chemical feed systems need to be visually inspected.
4. Do not turn on fan or circulate water over the fill material until steps 2 and 3 have been successfully achieved. Once steps 2 and 3 have been achieved fan may be turned on and water may be allowed to circulate over the fill.
5. Have a technician check the cooling tower functionality to make sure it is performing to design specs.



For more information about *Legionella* in buildings, contact:

Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program, Environmental Health Section

☎ 860-509-7740

🌐 <http://www.ct.gov/dph/ieq>

✉ dph.eoha@ct.gov