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

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