

MechSE WELLness

W03 Legionella Control

Intent: Establish an effective management program that prevents or adequately controls the risk of exposure to legionella bacteria.

Legionella is a species of bacteria naturally present in many bodies of water, which if inhaled, can lead to Legionnaires' disease, a type of pneumonia. Can cause coughs and shortness of breath, muscle aches, and headaches. If untreated, can lead to lung failure and death. Each year in the USA, Legionella results in roughly 8,000 to 18,000 hospitalization.

Impact: By carefully cataloguing water assets and hazards and preemptively developing plans and responses, a facility can control a common building-related illness.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. Implement a building specific Legionella Management Plan
 - a. Form a team for Legionella management in the building.
 - b. Water system inventory and production of process flow diagrams.
 - c. Hazard analysis of water assets.
 - d. Identification of control points and measures.
 - e. Monitoring actions to ensure control measures are within performance limits.
 - f. Verification and validation procedures.
 - g. Documentation of the plan and its implementation.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

MechSE contracts Nalco Water, an Ecolab Company, to provide and maintain a Legionella Management Plan specifically for LUMEB in accordance with the above criteria. Nalco visits the facility on a quarterly basis to test the water for Legionella and provide documentation. As far as we know, our facility is the only one on campus who has a specific plan in place. Our facility, with no open water features such as fountains or showers, is at a very low risk of exposure to legionella bacteria.

