

# **IMPORTANT WATER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS DURING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

# PRESENTER



**SPENSER JOHNSON**

Senior Environmental Group Manager  
Certified ASSE 12080 Legionella Water Safety and Management  
Specialist  
Barclay Water Management, Inc.

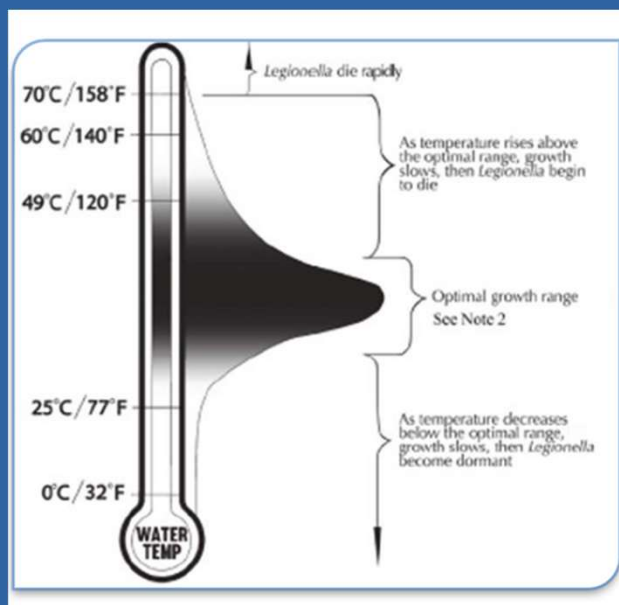


## AGENDA

- *Legionella* Bacteria, Standards, and Guidelines Overview
- Design and Construction Considerations
- Water Management for Construction (WMC) Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA)
- Start Up and Recommissioning

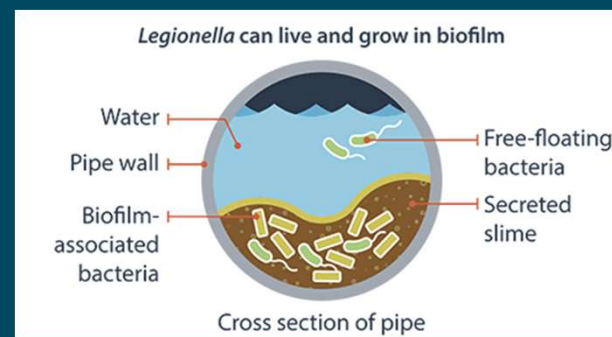


# LEGIONELLA BACTERIA



Source: ASHRAE Guideline 12-2020

- *Legionella* bacteria is a waterborne pathogen found in natural water
- More than 60 species of *Legionella*, with *Legionella pneumophila* responsible for 90% of case of human infection
- Growth Factors
  - Temperature
  - Nutrients



Source: CDC

# LEGIONELLA BACTERIA SOURCES

- Cooling Towers
- Humidifiers
- Showerheads
- Faucets
- Water Fountains
- Whirlpool Baths or Spas
- Decorative Fountains
- Misting Machines at Grocery Stores
- Dental Lines
- Ice Machines
- Water Storage Tanks

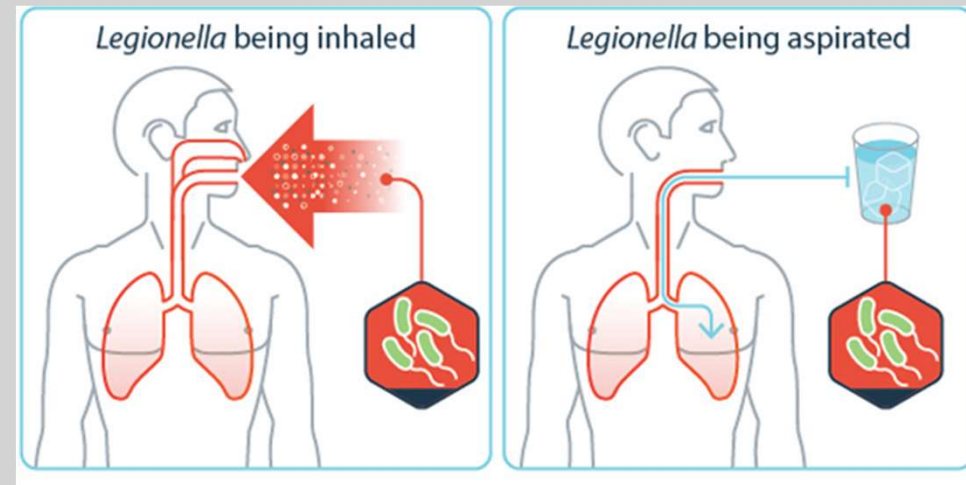


# WHAT IS LEGIONELLOSIS?

## Illnesses caused by Legionella bacteria

Legionnaires' disease is a serious type of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria & requires antibiotics.

Pontiac Fever is a milder infection, clears on its own & does not require antibiotics

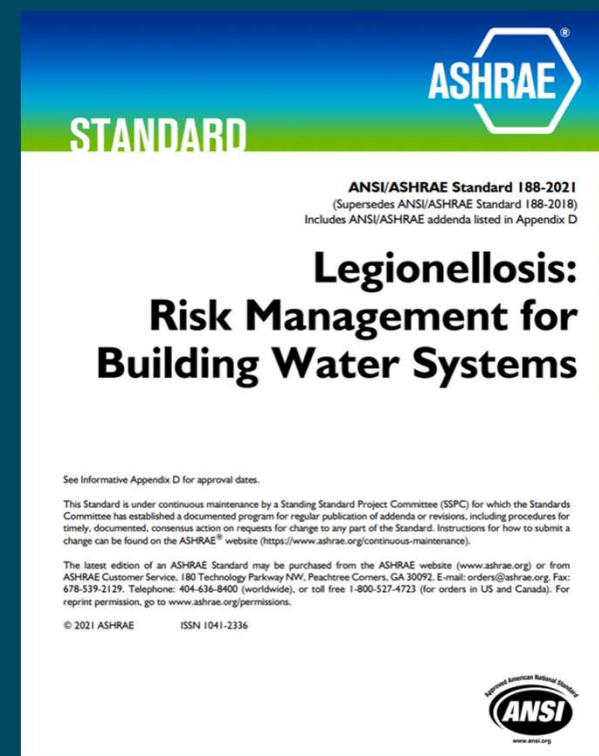


Source: CDC

# **ASHRAE STANDARD 188-2021**

## **Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems**

- Approved by ASHRAE Standards Committee May 2015; updated in 2021
- Certain buildings to Create & Implement a Water Management Program (WMP)
- Standard 188 has been written into regulations (NYS, NYC, CMS, The Joint Commission)

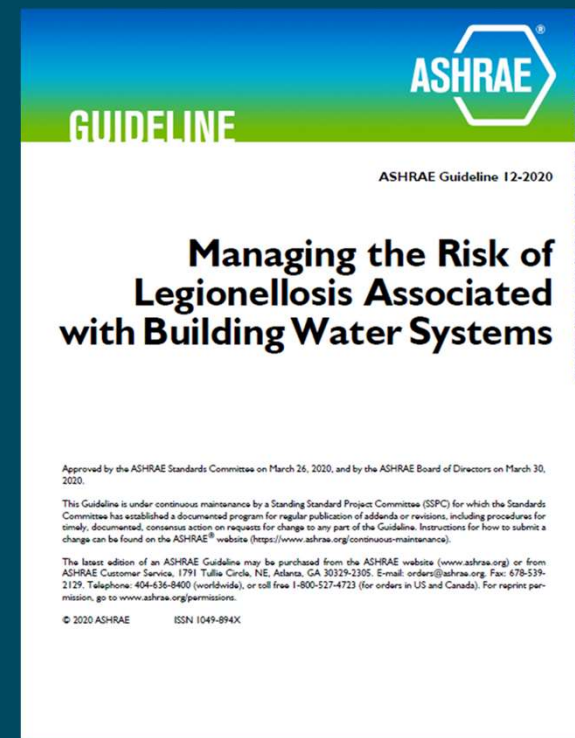


# **ASHRAE GUIDELINE 12-2023**

## **MANAGING THE RISK OF LEGIONELLOSIS**

### **ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING WATER SYSTEMS**

- Released in 2000, updated in 2023
- Provides information and guidance on the control of legionellosis associated with building water systems and provides guidance useful in the implementation of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 188, Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems.
- Outlines best practices and control measures for *Legionella* bacteria

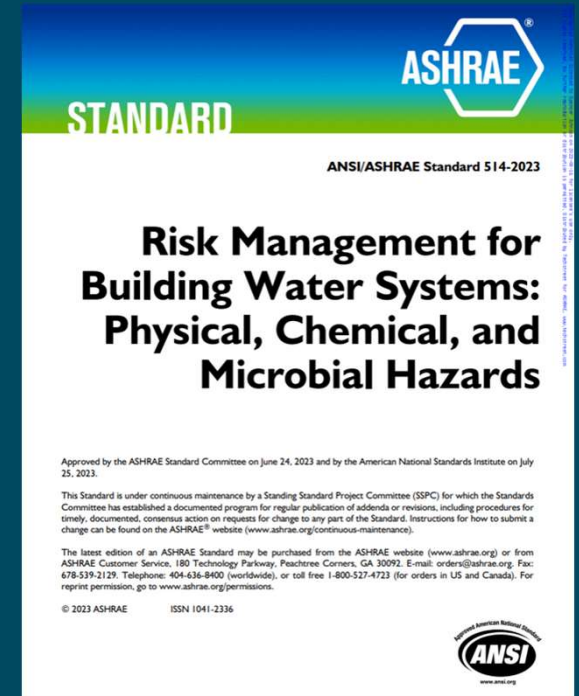




# **ASHRAE STANDARD 514-2023**

## **RISK MANAGEMENT FOR BUILDING WATER SYSTEMS: PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, AND MICROBIAL HAZARDS**

- Approved by the ASHRAE Standard Committee in June 2023
- Provides information and guidance on the control of other waterborne pathogens such as Nontuberculous Mycobacterium (NTM), Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Legionella, Acanthamoeba, and Naegleria fowleri, all of which can lead to negative human health effects.
- Outlines three hazard types and ways to mitigate the risks of each including guidance on water temperature, water quality, system design and maintenance, and risk assessments



# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION





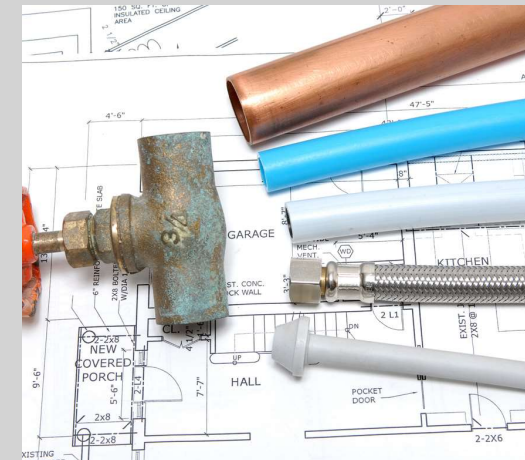
# IMPORTANT SYSTEM DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Insulation
- Piping Size
- Dead Legs
- Purge and Drain  
Valves/Recirculation
- Water Pressure
- Sampling Points

# PLUMBING COMPONENTS

A number of physical, chemical, and operational *Legionella* control measures can be affected by choices made when selecting plumbing components:

- Mixing Valves
- Water Storage Tanks
- Eye wash and safety showers
- Faucets with flow restrictors
- Electronic or sensor faucets





# PLUMBING COMPONENTS

- Floor Drains
- Expansion Tanks
- Maintenance Access
- Reduction of Stagnant Conditions
- Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention
- Nutrients
- Water Processing Equipment

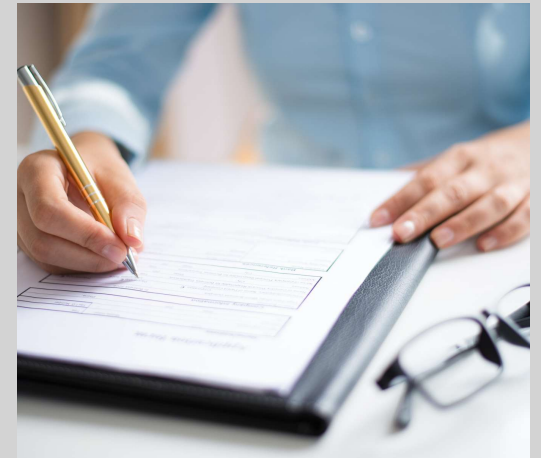




# DOCUMENTATION

When designing for new construction, renovations, refurbishment, replacement, or repurposing of a facility, the following shall be documented:

- System Overview
- Schematic Drawings of Water System
- Local, Regional, and National Code Compliance
- Outdoor Air Intakes
- Maintenance Schedules
- Access to Water System Components



# **WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION (WMC) - INFECTION CONTROL RISK ASSESSMENT (ICRA)**



# WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION (WMC) - INFECTION CONTROL RISK ASSESSMENT (ICRA)

## Construction Project Categories

### Category A

BWDS (Building Water Distribution System) Inspection, maintenance/repair and non-invasive activities of brief duration, and low water age. Water by fixture or area is shut down for < 24 hours (minimal water age/stagnation)

### Category B

Small scale BWDS, short duration activities which create minimal water disruption, and modest water age. Water by fixture or area is shut down for < 7 calendar days (1 work week for water age)

### Category C

Work generates moderate to high BWDS disruption or removal of any fixed BWDS components or assemblies with medium water age. Water by fixture, component, or area is shut down < 30 days.

### Category D

Major BWDS demolition, renovation, infrastructure, and/or new construction projects with high water age. Water by fixture or area is not active (new start-up) or was shut down (> 30 days)

# WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION (WMC) - INFECTION CONTROL RISK ASSESSMENT (ICRA)

## Building Occupant Risk Group

### Low

Office areas  
Conference Rooms  
Administration  
Medical Records

### Modest

Cafeteria areas  
Psychiatry  
Family waiting areas  
Lobbies  
Some outpatient modalities

### High

Emergency Department  
Pediatrics Unit  
Pharmacy  
High-risk Maternity  
Maternal newborn  
Post-anesthesia care unit  
Cardio interventional unit  
Cardiac care unit  
Acute care Medical Unit  
Acute care surgical unit

### Severe

Intensive Care Units, including Pediatric Intensive Care Units and Neonatal Intensive Care Units  
Hemo-oncology Units  
Burn Units  
Bone Marrow Transplant Units  
Oncology Units  
Labor & Delivery Units  
Operating Rooms/Suites  
Sterile Processing  
Cardiac Cath Labs  
Interventional Radiology  
Infusion Centers  
Dialysis Centers

## Water Management for Construction (WMC) Decision Matrix

	Minimally invasive BWDS, brief duration, and low water age ( < 24 hours)	Small scale BWDS, shortduration, and modest water age ( < 7 days)	Moderate to high levels of BWDS construction, and medium water age ( < 30 days)	Major BWDS demolition, renovation, infrastructure, and/or new construction with high water age ( > 30 days)
Building Occupant Risk Group	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
Low Risk	WMC-1	WMC-2	WMC-3	WMC-3 or 4
Modest Risk				WMC-4
High Risk	WMC-2	WMC-3	WMC-3 or 4	
Severe Risk		WMC-3 or 4		



## RISK MITIGATION LEVELS- WMC-1

- Prior to construction perform baseline measurements for temperature, oxidant residual, and pH.
- Following construction flush hot and cold water.
- Confirm measures are the same or better than baseline levels.
- Document all activities



## RISK MITIGATION LEVELS- WMC-2

- Perform all tasks for WMC-1
- Establish enclosure to prevent aerosolized water from dispersing into facility
- Leave barrier in place until all work is completed including flushing activities



## RISK MITIGATION LEVELS- WMC-3

- Perform all tasks for WMC-1 and 2
- Calculate water volumes for area under going construction
- Perform regular flushing in occupied and unoccupied areas adjacent and within the construction zone. Document flushing.
- Review disinfection procedures to be performed.



## RISK MITIGATION LEVELS- WMC-4

- Perform all tasks for WMC-1, 2, and 3
- Conduct a project specific pre-construction risk assessment
- Prepare a project specific WMC plan for commissioning the building water system(s) per ASHRAE Standard 188



# COMMISSIONING







# SYSTEM START-UP AND SHUTDOWN

Water Management Programs shall include procedures for:

- Flushing and Disinfection of new systems
- Shutdown
- Restarting
- Unplanned Loss of Operating Energy
- Reestablishing temperatures



# **LEGIONELLA OUTBREAK**

- Hospital in Ohio
- New Facility, Opening Delayed Several Times
- At least 16 Patients Diagnosed, One Passed Away
- Outbreak was likely the result of inadequate disinfection

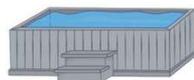


# COMMISSIONING BUILDING WATER SYSTEMS

Commissioning shall include the following:

- Procedures for flushing and disinfection
- Compliance with all applicable national, regional, and local regulations.
- Disinfection and flushing shall be completed no more than three weeks before whole or partial beneficial occupancy.
  - If occupancy is delayed more than two weeks but less than four weeks after disinfection, flushing of all fixtures shall again be completed.
  - If occupancy is delayed four weeks or more after disinfection, the need for disinfection, flushing, or both disinfection and flushing of unoccupied areas shall be determined by the WMP Team.
- Confirm that building water system meets design performance parameters

# REOPENING WATER SYSTEMS



- Develop a comprehensive Water Management Program (WMP) for your water system
- Confirm your water heater is properly maintained and the temperature is set to at least 140°F
- Flush your water system
- Clean all decorative water features
- Maintain hot tubs/spas per local, state or CDC guidelines
- Confirm cooling towers are clean and well-maintained
- Ensure safety equipment including fire sprinkler systems, eye wash stations, and safety showers are clean and well-maintained
- Maintain your water system. Regularly check water quality parameters such as temperature, pH, and disinfectant levels

# VALIDATION TESTING

Validate commissioning with testing:

- Disinfectant residuals in representative outlets – measured on-site while taking samples
- *Legionella* bacteria in representative outlets, ice, water heaters
- Lead levels in areas where people may consume the water
- Total bacteria (HPC) and Coliform bacteria

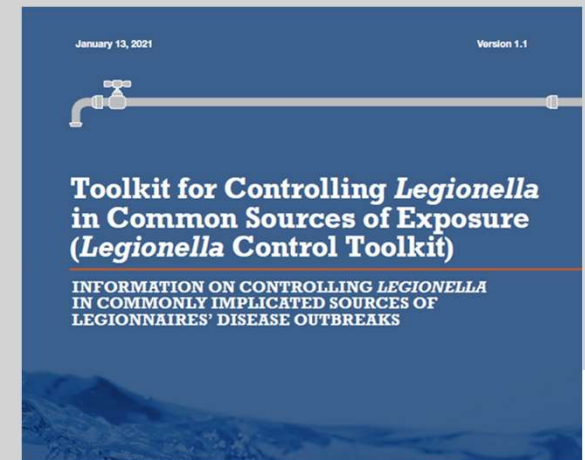




# CDC *LEGIONELLA* CONTROL TOOLKIT

CDC released a *Legionella* Control Toolkit

- Outlines the usefulness of routine sampling for *Legionella*
- Establishes performance indicators
- Endorses ASHRAE Guideline 12-2023





## TAKEAWAYS

- Consider the risks associated with water system elements and features and decide what should be used during the design phase.
- The importance of a WMC (Water Management for Construction) ICRA (Infection Control Risk Assessment) and how to use them during construction.
- How to properly recommission a building water system following construction. The steps to take and documentation that's needed.

# THANK YOU