

Wem Town Council Legionella Policy Public Toilets

The objective of this Legionella Policy is to control, prevent and minimise the risk from Legionella to the public, staff and contractors at the Recreation Ground and Co-op Car Park Toilets, so far as reasonably practicable by designing, operating and maintaining plant and equipment in accordance with the Approved Code of Practice and Guidance Policy (ACoP L8).

1. Statutory Requirements *Legionnaires' Disease – Technical Guidance ACoP L8 and HSG274*

1.1 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 sets out the broad legal requirements for health, policy for the Control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems, safety and welfare of employees/tenants and others (including visitors, contractors and the general public).

1.2 Beneath the Act are a series of regulations which describe more detailed obligations, such as the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002.

1.3 Further documents include Approved Code of Practice and Guidance (ACoP L8) and HSG274 (HSE Technical Guidance), which serves to interpret the regulations more specifically. In respect of this policy, the Health and Safety Commission's 'ACoP L8 – Legionnaires' Disease. The control of legionella bacteria in water systems', explains the requirements of COSHH in respect of Legionella.

1.4 The organisation will follow the guidance of COSHH regulations by eliminating hazards when managing them is not essential to the operations and processes of the business. Removing unneeded systems completely will automatically remove the associated hazard

2. Legionella

2.1 The term Legionellosis covers Legionnaires Disease, Pontiac Fever and Lochgoilhead Fever. Legionnaires disease is a Pneumonia that principally affects those who are susceptible due to age (especially young or old), illness, immunosuppression, smoking etc. and may be fatal. Legionella can also cause less serious illnesses which are not fatal, but which can affect all people.

2.2 Although Legionella bacteria are water-borne organisms, transmission of the disease is by inhaling water droplets in the form of an aerosol that contain the Legionella bacteria. Legionella are widespread in natural sources of water. They may enter man made systems or water services where they multiply under certain favourable conditions, i.e. water held between 20°C and 45°C, such as: running showers, spa bath equipment or cooling towers that can generate aerosols. Other sources include humidifiers and air washers.

2.3 ACoP L8 sets out the guidance to those with health and safety responsibilities to help comply with legal duties in relations to legionella. For example, for those responsible for the premises, a basic framework is set out for preventing further outbreaks of the disease by giving advice on the management and selection, training and competence of appropriate personnel and any Specialist Contractor's.

2.4 Responsibilities of manufacturers, installers of products and service providers are also included.

2.5 The following items currently present a risk of Legionellosis at the public toilets

- Equipment containing water which are likely to exceed 20°C and may release a spray or aerosol during operation (cleaners cupboard water heater) .

2.6 Wem Town Council will manage the risk of Legionella in accordance with the latest edition of ACoP L8 Guidance L8, (Legionnaires' Disease. The control of legionella in water systems) and HSG274.

2.7 Under ACoP L8, and in accordance with COSHH regulations, there is a requirement to carry out an assessment to identify and assess the risk from Legionella associated with all water systems on site. It is then necessary to implement a Legionella Management Programme and demonstrate that all necessary steps to achieve and maintain adequate control have been considered and implemented as far as reasonably practicable. The organisation will follow the guidance of COSHH regulations by eliminating hazards when managing them is not essential to the operations and processes of the business. Removing unneeded systems completely will automatically remove the associated hazard

2.8 ACoP L8 and HSG274 will be the guidance for the Wem Town Council Legionella written scheme.

3. Wem Town Council will have in place:

- Regular Risk Assessment: to identify and assess sources of risk from Legionella;
- Action Plan: which puts in place control measures that take account of the Risk Assessment and prevents or minimises the risk from exposure to Legionella;
- Safe Working Practices: implement and manage the scheme of precautions and other measures in compliance of the Policy. Nominate a Duty Holder responsible to oversee and implement the scheme of precautions;
- Assurance of Control: implement monitoring and recording procedures to endeavour to ensure that the measures put in place are adequate and effective;
- Training: regular training of all personnel involved, to endeavour that they have a level of knowledge and competence commensurate with their involvement in the control procedure; Training records will be reviewed annually.
- Wem Town Council has a commitment to using WRAS approved materials on domestic systems".
- Risk Assessment: review the Risk Assessment every year or more frequently if any significant changes occur to the system;
- Policies: reviewed at least annually, or more regularly if any legislation has been implemented;
- Purchase and install equipment for new projects, schemes or replacement programmes, which prevents and/or minimises the risk.

Councillors will be responsible for this policy; and ensuring that Town Council staff with a responsibility for management of the building and contractors are aware of their legal responsibilities and duties; provide training as necessary.

The Statutory Duty Holder will implement the Legionella Control Policy; keep informed of relevant legislation; ensure that actions that have been approved by the Town Council to remove or mitigate against risk are carried out; ensure all contractors are aware of their legal responsibilities and duties.

Wem Town Council approved this policy on 30.4.26. This policy is reviewed every 2 years, unless otherwise indicated by change in national guidance or in the event of an outbreak, case, or suspected case of legionellosis arising from a water system under the control of the Wem Town Council

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