

ARE YOU CQC COMPLIANT?

It's a fact that care homes have the highest potential for Legionella outbreaks due mainly to the inherent problems associated with older and frailer residents.

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia. It is normally contracted by inhaling tiny, airborne droplets containing viable Legionella bacteria. Although everyone is susceptible to infection, the risk increases with age and some people are at a higher risk, such as people over 45, smokers, people suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease, diabetes, lung and heart disease and anyone with an impaired immune system.

Water systems in care homes, with residents likely to be particularly vulnerable, need particular consideration.

Key Points To Consider:

- ◆ Have you assessed the risks and put suitable and sufficient controls in place?
- ◆ Do you have access to a competent person who can manage the risk from legionella?
- ◆ Do you ensure that the system remains clean, at the correct temperatures and there is no stagnation of water?
- ◆ Are the frequency of temperature checks and controls in line with HSE guidance?

Other Main Issues

- ◆ Scalding potential of hot water outlets. Need for TMV's (Mixing taps).
- ◆ Infrequently used hot and cold water outlets. Homes tend to be excessively warm for the wellbeing of the residents so cold water pipework can easily become too hot (greater than 20°C) and can be an ideal breeding ground for legionella bacteria. Also many homes have bedrooms with en-suites which are not used enough; therefore temperature monitoring and flushing becomes a key control parameter to minimise Legionella growth.
- ◆ Security can be a major issue if vulnerable residents are present. Outsourced labour, if not vetted or trained correctly can trigger safeguarding risks.
- ◆ Due to high workloads, in-house maintenance staff do not have time to carry out consistent legionella control tasks.

Click on the below links for further information and guidance for the control of legionella.

[Legionnaires' disease - A brief guide for duty holders](#)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg458.pdf>

[The control of legionella bacteria in water systems L8. Approved Code of Practice and guidance on regulation.](#)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l8.pdf>

[Health and safety in care homes HSG 220 2nd edition.](#)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg220.pdf>



GES Water gains UKAS 17020 Accreditation

UKAS 17020 accredited Legionella risk assessment is fast becoming the benchmark required for Legionella risk assessment providers and building managers.

As an UKAS 17020 accredited company, we at GES Water must demonstrate that:

- ◆ Risk assessments are carried out independently and impartially. UKAS looks for sufficient safeguards to ensure that links to other bodies do not influence the risk assessment or any subsequent recommendations
- ◆ Integrity is being maintained by all staff at all levels through contractual obligation to written codes of conduct. Such safeguards are necessary to ensure that inspections are undertaken with sufficient impartiality and that recommendations are appropriate to given situations.

“This accreditation represents the commitment of GES Water Ltd to quality and consistency in all we do.”

Chris Davis, Managing Director

Thermostatic Mixing Valve (TMV) - Installation and Service

ARE YOUR TMVs BUILDING UP LEGIONELLA INFESTATIONS?

TMVs are important in the prevention of scalding when used in care home showers and wash bathroom areas. It is important to clean and service TMVs to prevent the proliferation of Legionella in deposit build ups within the control valve.

Thermostatic mixing valves (TMVs) mix the hot and cold water supplies to produce a temperature-controlled flow. The hot water supply is typically around 60°C, and is maintained at this temperature to prevent the growth of harmful organisms, such as Legionella bacteria.

A supply of higher temperature water is also required for cleaning and washing purposes in the kitchen and laundry while also increasing the overall capacity of warm water (mixed with cold) to the building. Water at 60°C, however, can scald and so it is mixed with cold water at the point of discharge, to produce a flow at a safe and comfortable temperature of 41°C.

GES water can install and maintain TMV control valves to ensure that they remain compliant and in line with recommendations for the prevention of Legionella in hot and cold water services.



Remote Legionella Temperature and Automatic Flushing

Key Features

- ◆ Automatic flushing-react and flush-by-set commands.
- ◆ Temperature monitoring takes a temperature up to every single minute.
- ◆ Web-based monitoring gives you control from anywhere in the world.
- ◆ Frost protection and freeze alarm for extra security.
- ◆ Fault alarm for added peace of mind.
- ◆ Self-managing 'intelligent' software knows if water is stagnant.
- ◆ Economical to run means smaller bills.
- ◆ Two-way communication for data gathering and proactive control.
- ◆ Works with other monitoring systems and can evolve with them over time.



Main Benefits

SAVE TIME, SHRINK COSTS

Direct control and full automation means no more risk from sick days, holidays and unreliable contractors. It means complete compliance and improved cost-efficiency have never been easier to achieve

MAINTENANCE FREE

Our autonomous systems are entirely self-sufficient, and they'll even send full diagnostic reports to your desktop, tablet or mobile phone.

IMPROVED COST EFFICIENCY

Our fit-and-forget automated system saves man-hours, and this can save literally thousands of pounds in the long run. In fact, return on investment is typically seen within months of installation.

EASY RETRO-FIT

It's never too late to have our qualified technicians install a new system. Once fitted, its convenience, reliability and cost efficiency mean you'll never look back.

WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

Our state-of-the-art wireless technology gives you web-based monitoring of multiple sites from anywhere in the world.

Return On Investment

- ◆ Reduction in labour cost for site visits
- ◆ Reduction in water usage
- ◆ Less false negatives with their associated costs
- ◆ Improved compliance, better control
- ◆ Low cost installation and supply
- ◆ Pay back from 12 months depending on system requirements

GES Water - Who We Are

GES Water is an independently owned business specialising in water hygiene & water treatment solutions. With national coverage across the UK and locally based service engineers & consultants, we can offer our client an unrivalled variety of services and solutions for the control & Prevention of Legionella.

With GES Water's history stretching back 25 years & continued success & growth across the UK, you can be confident that you will deal with a professional & reputable company.

As a member of the Legionella Control Association (LCA), we are committed to delivering high standards of service.

Our accreditations include:

- UKAS 17020 for Inspections
- ISO 14001 - Environmental Management System (EMS)
- OHSAS 18001: 2007— Occupational Health and Safety Management System
- ISO 9001 - Quality Management Systems

GES Customer Relationship

GES will always provide the best advice and control procedures to our customers.

Our mission is to provide an unrivalled service within the water treatment & hygiene industry to ensure our clients receive innovative and cost effective solutions for the control & prevention of Legionella.

Call us on 0800 121 8808 to speak with one of our consultants for a free no-obligation quotation, or email us at: info@ges-water.co.uk

Our Services Cover:

- ◆ Comprehensive Water Hygiene Risk Assessments in line with ACoP L8 and fourth edition HSG274
- ◆ Prevention & control measures
- ◆ Implementation & control precautions
 - Temperature monitoring
 - Water for pseudomonas, legionella and coliforms using an independent UKAS laboratory
 - Cleaning and disinfection of tanks, cooling towers, and incoming mains and associated hot and cold water pipe work
 - TMV installation and servicing
 - Swimming pool and hot tub Legionella control
 - Pre-commission cleaning
- ◆ Remote wireless temperature monitoring and automatic system flushing



- ◆ Dedicated logbook & record systems
- ◆ Audit & review services
- ◆ Legionella risk awareness training
- ◆ General Legionella and water treatment consultancy
- ◆ Remedial works
 - Pipe work modifications and tank replacements
 - Calorifier servicing
 - Dead leg removal
 - Scale and corrosion control of heating systems
 - General plumbing modifications
 - Supply and installations of water softeners and chlorine dioxide dosing systems