

Legionellosis risk management and legionella control guidance for vehicle wash systems

LEGIONELLOSIS RISK MANAGEMENT AND LEGIONELLA CONTROL
GUIDANCE FOR VEHICLE WASH SYSTEMS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document has been commissioned by the EI to provide supplementary guidance on the management and control of Legionella in vehicle wash systems, including recycling vehicle wash systems, once through vehicle wash systems, high pressure wash systems and tunnel washes.

For a full interpretation of the requirements set out by the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE), readers should refer to the HSE Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance document L8, *Legionnaires' disease: The control of Legionella bacteria in water systems* (a.k.a. L8). HSE technical publication HSG274 supports L8 and provides guidance for the control of Legionella. HSG274 is published in three parts: Part 1 covering evaporative cooling systems (e.g. cooling towers), Part 2 hot and cold water systems (e.g. domestic water for hotels, office buildings and similar), and Part 3 other risk systems. Vehicle wash systems are covered in HSG274 Part 3 but only in broad terms.

Additional guidance on Legionella control in other risk systems is available in the EI publications *Legionella risk management and Legionella control – Guidance for oil and gas facilities offshore platforms and refineries* (2nd edition) and *Cooling tower maintenance and other controls for the effective management of Legionella risk* (1st edition). This guidance is made specific to vehicle wash systems and is to complement these related EI documents. To avoid duplication between the documents, much of the general background on Legionnaires' disease, microbiology of a Legionella outbreak and general controls is omitted from this document and so the documents are to be read and used in conjunction.

The control of Legionellosis is a legislative requirement under the UK Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations. Every company that has a vehicle wash system should maintain a documented system to demonstrate how the risk of an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease is to be minimised.

The design and operation of vehicle wash systems can differ considerably. This can lead to uncertainty as to what actions or precautions need to be taken to meet both legislative requirements of Legionellosis risk management and practical control of Legionella contamination. Additionally, many operators are interested in how best to control the growth and activity of Legionella should their system become contaminated. Due to the broad nature of available information regarding these installations, there is a need for the development of a consistent approach throughout the industry. To assist, the EI commissioned a research study in 2002 into the risks relating to recycling vehicle wash systems, providing initial guidance. This study has now been reviewed, updated and the revised findings coupled with a review of current regulatory requirements have been used in the development of this guidance. This document is not a replacement for current or future HSE guidance but aims to assist system operators to develop an appropriate written scheme for the control of Legionella in vehicle wash systems.

The written scheme is a document detailing information about the vehicle wash system regarding preventing and controlling the risks with reference to the Legionella risk assessment. The document should give details on how to use and carry out the various control measures and water treatment regimens which are outlined in the control scheme. The scheme should also include details on the correct operation of the system and actions to take in the event of out-of-line or outbreak situations.

The aim of EI's document is to provide operators of vehicle wash systems with specific and practical guidance in addition to L8 and its supporting guidance HSG274. The documents aim to minimise the opportunity for a Legionellosis outbreak to occur from a vehicle wash system. The summarised control actions can be found in section 5.