

## GPG 25 Cooling Tower Systems



### Governing Legislation and Standards:

All manufacturing businesses that have Cooling Tower Systems on site.  
Building (Legionella) Act 2000  
Building (Legionella Risk Management) Regulations 2001  
Plumbing (Cooling Towers) Regulations 2001  
Health Act 1958  
Health (Legionella) Regulations 2001  
Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985  
AS/NZS 4360:1999 Risk Management  
AS/NZS 3666 Air Handling and Water Systems of Buildings - Microbial Control



### Summary Information:

Legionnaires disease is a form of pneumonia, that people can catch by inhaling moist air that contains Legionella bacteria.

Legionnaires bacteria have been associated with cooling tower systems, utilising water.

Legislation in Victoria places responsibilities upon both the landowner and the occupier, of premises that have a cooling tower system.

Legislation in Victoria requires monthly testing (total bacterial count) and review of the results, be carried out on the cooling tower system. In the event of an adverse result, immediate remedial action is required to ensure the health of employees and neighbours is protected.

A "Risk Management Plan" must be prepared and implemented, to ensure effective management of the cooling tower system.

An audit by approved independent 3rd parties, is required on at least an annual basis to ensure, the Risk Management Plan is current and being effectively implemented and that all legislation is being complied with.

The Department of Human Services, is responsible for the approval of auditors, responsible for assessing the "Risk Management Plan" described above.



### Further Help:

Department of Human Services, Public Health Division (Environmental Health Unit)  
Telephone 1800 248 898, internet: [www.dhs.vic.gov/phd/lrmp](http://www.dhs.vic.gov/phd/lrmp)

Building Control Commission, tel: 9285 6400, internet: [www.buildcc.com.au](http://www.buildcc.com.au)  
Plumbing Industry Commission, tel: 9889 2211, internet: [www.pic.vic.gov.au](http://www.pic.vic.gov.au)

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## Good Practice Risk Control:

- One means to eliminate the risks associated with wet cooling towers is to replace the system with an alternative. Expert advice may be required to determine viable alternatives.
- All Cooling Tower Systems must be registered with the Building Control Commission. If you have a “cooling tower system” and have not already done so, contact both the owner of the land and the Building Control Commission, and organise the registration of the cooling tower system.
- If you are installing a new “cooling tower system” you must register the system with the Building Control Commission before commissioning it.
- The new “Cooling Tower System” must meet all requirements of AS/NZS 3666 Air Handling and Water Systems of Buildings – Microbial Control