

Cooling Tower Inspection and Maintenance

The presence of Legionella bacteria in potable water systems and premise plumbing, which includes cooling towers, has sometimes resulted in these devices being implicated, among other sources, in outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease.

The development of an effective water management plan (WMP) and implementation of maintenance procedures are essential to prevent the presence, dissemination and amplification of Legionella bacteria and other waterborne contaminants throughout premise plumbing. Before operating the cooling system, the water management plan and maintenance procedures must be in place and regularly practiced.

In addition, the following steps are recommended:

- ❑ Do not attempt any service until the fan motor is locked out.
- ❑ Consult a knowledgeable water treatment professional to clean and treat your new cooling tower prior to startup. Refer to your specific Marley Cooling Tower User Manual for more detailed instructions.
- ❑ Cooling towers must be cleaned and disinfected regularly in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 188 and Guideline 12.
- ❑ Workers performing decontamination procedures must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as directed by their facility safety officer.
- ❑ Cooling towers must be visually inspected regularly to assess signs of bacterial growth, appearance of debris and scale on drift eliminators and general operating conditions. Refer to ASHRAE Standard 188 for specific frequency recommendations. Replace worn or damaged components.

By following the water management plan, performing regularly scheduled cooling tower inspections and maintenance, and enlisting the services of water treatment professionals, the opportunity for waterborne microorganisms, such as Legionella, to colonize is minimized.

Visit spxcooling.com for specific cooling tower product information and user manuals or contact your Marley sales representative for technical support.

References:

- ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 188-2015, Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, ASHRAE, 2015 <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/bookstore/ansi-ashrae-standard-188-2015-legionellosis-risk-management-for-building-water-systems>
- ASHRAE Guideline 12-2000 - Minimizing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems*, ASHRAE, 2000 https://www.techstreet.com/ashrae/standards/guideline-12-2000-minimizing-the-risk-of-legionellosis-associated-with-building-water-systems?product_id=232891
- Developing a Water Management Program to Reduce Legionella Growth and Spread in Buildings*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 5, 2017 <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/maintenance/wmp-toolkit.html>

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