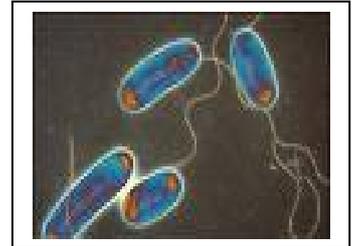


For: Heads of all Establishments/Settings  
OCC Managers  
Governors/Management Committees  
Trade Union Safety Representatives  
Intranet

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### Portable Air Chilling Devices – Legionella Risk

Portable air chilling devices, such as the type that can be purchased from high street retailers, might be considered as an option to help keep individuals in open plan areas or offices cool during the few warm weeks each summer. However, there is a potential risk to the health and safety of individuals who may use or be in the vicinity of such devices. This risk comes from the legionella bacteria which causes a form of pneumonia commonly known as legionnaires' disease.

200 – 400 cases of legionnaires' disease are reported in the UK each year. It principally affects those who are susceptible due to age, illness, immunosuppression, smoking, etc. and can be fatal. Legionella can also cause less serious illnesses, which are not fatal or permanently debilitating, in all people. Incidents of legionnaires' disease have been attributed to the use of portable air chilling devices.

In addition, portable air chilling devices are not 'environmentally friendly' as they consume a considerable amount of energy – as shown by energy efficiency rating charts.

#### Advice

- The purchase and use of portable air chilling devices is strongly discouraged.

**If such devices are used** it is the responsibility of the SITE RESPONSIBLE PERSON to ensure that:

- the devices are included/detailed as part of the buildings legionella risk assessment.
- water hygiene inspecting officers have access to the units to check, so far as is possible, that they are safe.
- devices are operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers guidance. This may include the need for periodic inspection and cleaning by professionals.

#### What should a manager do?

- Take note of this information. A copy should be kept with the establishment's Water Hygiene Manual.

#### Further information:

Health and Safety Team



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