



WE PROVIDE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SERVICES TO ASSIST OUR CLIENTS THAT INCLUDE:

- EHS Risk Assessments
- Occupational Hygiene Surveys
- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management
- System development and implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Construction EHS Services
- Construction H&S Files
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training



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OH0049



Department of Employment
and Labour Approved
Inspection Authority
(OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by
Mandy Gardner

LEGIONELLA RISKS DUE TO STAGNANT WATER DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

With closures of businesses and reduced occupancies this could increase the risks of Legionnaires' disease. Stagnant water becomes the perfect environment for Legionella bacteria to grow, in so escalating the risk for Legionnaires' disease, a deadly respiratory infection with severe pneumonia-like symptoms.

Certain conditions, such as stagnant water environments, this bacteria thrives in biofilm, scale, and sediment within the water pipe system of the building.

Areas of Vulnerability:

The most common occurrences of Legionella have been in buildings and facilities with mismanaged water systems. Bacteria thrive in buildings with HVAC systems where:

- water condensation can collect and pool,
- cooling towers on roofs where standing water is common, and
- potable systems from water heaters that lead directly to faucets and showerheads.

Employers have a duty to protect people by identifying and controlling risks associated with legionella. Water system stagnation can occur due to the lack of use and following the strict regulatory standards.

What you need to do:

- Review your risk assessment
- manage the legionella risks when you:
 - reinstate a water system or start using it again
 - restart some types of air conditioning units
- Conduct a Legionella Survey



Legionella Bacteria



If the water system is in regular use, maintain appropriate measures to prevent legionella growth.

Hot and cold-water systems

If hot and cold-water outlets are used infrequently, flush them weekly to prevent water stagnation.

If you cannot do this, work with your competent person or people to ensure systems are cleaned (if required) and disinfected before the building is occupied.

Water system stagnation can occur due to lack of use, increasing the risks of Legionnaires' disease. Legionella is common in many water supply sources.

Cooling towers and evaporative condensers

Ensure existing plans are in place to guarantee safe systems of work continue during any shutdown.

If cooling towers and evaporative condensers are probable to be out of operation for:

- up to a month - isolate fans, but circulate biocidally-treated water around the system for at least an hour each week
- more than a month - drain down the systems and clean and disinfect them. Clean and disinfect the systems again before refilling and returning to operation

Air conditioning units

If your workplace has been closed for an extended period and has air conditioning units that have a source of water that can generate aerosol, you will need to assess the risks of legionella being present within them before restarting.

Small wall or ceiling-mounted units with closed cooling systems should not present a risk.

Larger units may present a risk if they have improperly drained condensate trays, or humidifier or evaporative cooling sections where water can stagnate, becoming a reservoir for bacteria to grow.

When reviewing your risk assessment, determine what the risks are for the units and if they need to be cleaned safely before they are turned on.



In Touch

EHS Newsletter

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Southern Office

PO Box 27607
Greenacres
Port Elizabeth
6057

Tel: +27 (0)41 365 6846
Fax: +27 (0)41 365 2123

info@safetech.co.za

Northern Office

PO Box 80171
Doornpoort
Pretoria
0017

Tel: +27 (0)82 4111 571
Fax: +27 (0)86 6579 864

carlita.westoby@safetech.co.za



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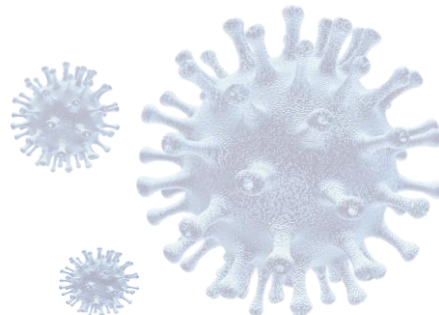
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Refer to www.sanas.co.za
for Schedule of Accreditation

SPECIAL OFFER RUNNING JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

South African businesses have had to predict cashflow during the COVID-19 crisis. The modern world is having to face unique and unprecedented times.

Covid-19 has had profound effects on all aspects of business operations, from the supply and demand of products, to logistics, profitability, and cash flow. Many businesses were not prepared for the events of downtime, unstable cash flows made businesses extremely vulnerable. Businesses that were in good financial shape prior the pandemic are even suffering.



We know and understand how real these current financial strains are when it comes to running your business. Especially when complying with regulatory standards.



For **July, August and September** if we conduct any of your Occupational Hygiene Surveys (e.g. Illumination, Noise etc.) we will offer you a **free electronic version** of our Covid-19 Workplace Plan Assessment Tool. This offer is applicable to all projects exceeding R7000 (excl VAT).

Complimentary Covid-19 Workplace Plan Assessment Tool



Safetech can also assist your company by providing an

**On-Site Covid-19 Risk Assessment
And / or a Covid-19 Workplace Plan Audit**

Contact us for more information

How to deal with the **legal requirements regarding a Covid-19 positive case**, go to: <https://youtu.be/JXbAgryTsQ0> for more information by Dr Brett Williams

Risk Communication

The covid-19 pandemic highlights the fact that there is no better time to communicate than during a time of crisis.

With the uncertainty that has been created by the covid-19 pandemic this reminds us that **risk will always be part of life**. This outbreak is unarguably affecting our lives at home and work alike. Whether for better or worse, communicating about risks far outweighs the rest.

Timely feedback

There is a clear window now for opportunity to reassess how to communicate risks in your organizations.

Let us assist you with training today, either online or onsite (See Survey list attached).



<https://ohsonline.com/Articles/2020/05/01/Recognizing-and-Mitigating-Static-Electricity-Hazards.aspx?admgarea=news&Page=4#>