

Magnus' Policy - *Legionella* & Legionellosis

Mars 2008

Magnus makes the following statements concerning Legionnaire's disease

Magnus recognizes the potential hazard for ***Legionella Pneumophila*** contamination in cooling towers and evaporative condensers, as well as other water systems and water disseminating devices or equipment that may or may not be a part of water treatment programs.

Magnus supports the **prudent operational and water treatment practices** for cooling towers, evaporative condensers, and other recirculating water systems, consistent with reducing ***Legionella*** contamination. This includes :

- ◆ A **control program** to minimize corrosion, scaling, and fouling in order to promote operational efficiency, system cleanliness and a reduction in microorganism breeding areas
- ◆ **Application of dispersant agents and bio-dispersants** to reduce biofilm, sludge, debris and dirt accumulation - that further control microorganism breeding areas.
- ◆ A **biocide program**, including oxidizing and non-oxidizing treatments, that is applied according to proper labeling, to control microbiological growth and proliferation.
- ◆ Maintaining **best available** mist elimination **technology** in evaporative systems and eliminating or minimizing stagnant (dead-leg) zones and areas.
- ◆ A **minimum annual (twice annual-preferred) thorough wash-out** and cleaning of cooling towers and evaporative condenser cooling water systems - including an oxidizing disinfection before and after each cleaning.

Magnus supports that the microbiology and environmental ecology of ***Legionella*** includes **many variables that determine organism virulence and survival, disease transmission and contraction, and human host susceptibility**. Furthermore, even prudently applied water treatment programs cannot guarantee 100% ***Legionella*** eradication or disease prevention.



Magnus supports the **sampling and testing for *Legionella*** in cooling towers, evaporative condensers and other water systems appropriately **assessed and evaluated** to pose disease risk. Specifically targeted systems include those that have a likelihood of harboring ***Legionella*** and/or pose an increased risk of transmission to populations of "at-risk" hosts. Monitoring for ***Legionella*** within a facility may also be **appropriate or required to:**

- ◆ Verify the effectiveness of water treatment protocols,
- ◆ Evaluate potential Legionnaires' Disease (LD) transmission sources,
- ◆ Verify the effectiveness of ***Legionella*** decontamination procedures,
- ◆ Test within certain healthcare facilities that have patients at high risk for LD.

The actual information provided is and originated from medical communities and other specialized groups that study, investigate, with the *Legionella* and legionellose as well as the following associations:

AWT (Association of Water Technologies), **ASHRAE** (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers), **CDC** (Centers for Disease Control), **CTI** (Cooling Water Institute), **EPA** (Environmental Protection Agency) and **OSHA** (Occupational Safety and Health Agency)

Magnus supports that ***Legionella* sampling and testing** should be considered for all potential ***Legionella***-source water systems. An ultimate decision to test or not should be determined and based upon an assessment and review of the specific water system (site and operations) for LD risks. This includes having an understanding of relevant facts on ***Legionella*** sampling and testing, ***Legionella*** and Legionnaires' disease, and having an action plan for test results.

Magnus will **continue to promote and report the latest findings, research and technologies** relevant to the control of ***Legionella*** and the prevention of Legionnaires' disease. This includes independent research, as well as liaison and joint exchanges with government agencies, other organizations, associations, and related professional entities.



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Accordingly, Magnus does not recommend the **routine** sampling and testing of all systems without appropriate assessments and action plans based on results.