



PACE SOLUTIONS

800.799.6211

www.pacesolutions.com

legionella@pacesolutions.com

Cooling Tower *Legionella* Risk Mitigation:

Technical Advisory Bulletin Based on
*"Public Works and Government
Services Canada MD15161 Standard"*

Legionella Best Practices

Cooling towers can provide favorable conditions for the growth and transmission of potentially fatal *Legionella* bacteria due to warm water temperatures, aerosol generation, and nutrients and biofilm within the system.

The **Public Works and Government Services Canada MD15161 Standard – Control of Legionella in Mechanical Systems** outlines recommended practices for inspection, maintenance, cleaning, and microbiological monitoring of cooling towers.

As your water treatment partner, Pace Solutions considers it part of our professional responsibility to inform building owners and operators of these recognized best practices, so that cooling tower management programs can align with accepted *Legionella* risk mitigation guidance.

Many of these practices extend beyond routine water treatment services but form part of a comprehensive **building water management plan**.

Important Notice:

It is our professional responsibility to inform clients of recognized best practices for *Legionella* risk reduction.

While implementation of these measures significantly reduces risk, **no program can guarantee the complete elimination of *Legionella* bacteria or prevent all potential outbreaks.**

Pace's role is to support our clients by providing water treatment expertise, guidance, and recommendations aligned with the **MD15161 *Legionella* control standard**. It is important that building owners and operators understand the full scope of recommended risk mitigation practices, even if only certain elements of the program are accepted, so that operational decisions are **informed, documented, and defensible**.

Recommended Measures Beyond Routine Water Treatment

Scheduled Inspections (weekly, monthly and annual)

MD15161 outlines weekly, monthly and annual inspection requirements. Building operators should carry out routine visual checks, while certified HVAC service providers perform detailed annual mechanical inspections, including drift eliminators, distribution nozzles, basin cleanliness, tower fill, fans, belts, blades, and bearings.

Cooling Tower Cleaning (minimum twice per year)

Cooling towers should undergo chemical cleaning at seasonal startup and again during the operating season. Following chemical circulation and draining, a certified HVAC contractor should perform detailed physical cleaning of tower components.

System Disinfection (at least annually)

Annual startup disinfection is recommended, with additional disinfection performed if microbiological testing indicates corrective action is required. Contact Pace for pricing.

Total Bacteria Count Testing (Weekly)

MD15161 recommends weekly dipslide testing to confirm total bacteria counts. Contact Pace for pricing on dipslide test kits for your building operators.

***Legionella* Culture Testing (Monthly)**

Monthly *Legionella* culture testing while towers are operating provides verification of microbiological control and program effectiveness. Contact Pace for pricing.

Responsibility for implementation of these operational and maintenance practices remains with the **building owner or operator**. Pace Solutions can assist by providing technical guidance and support in developing a program aligned with these recommended practices. A copy of the *Public Works and Government Services Canada MD15161 Standard – Control of Legionella in Mechanical Systems* can be provided upon request.