

What is the requirement?

“Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expects Medicare certified healthcare facilities to have water management policies and procedures to reduce the risk of growth and spread of Legionella and other opportunistic pathogens in building water systems.”

Who is affected?*

- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Long Term Care Facilities

**This is also intended to provide general awareness for all healthcare organizations*

How to be compliant?

- Conduct a facility risk assessment to identify where Legionella and other opportunistic waterborne pathogens (e.g. Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, Burkholderia, Stenotrophomonas, nontuberculous mycobacteria, and fungi) could grow and spread in the facility watersystem.
- Implement a water management program that considers the ASHRAE 188 industry standard and the CDC toolkit, and includes control measures such as physical controls, temperature management, disinfectant level control, visual inspections, and environmental testing for pathogens.
- Specify testing protocols and acceptable ranges for control measures, and document the results of testing and corrective actions taken when control limits are not maintained.
- Maintain compliance with other applicable Federal, State and local requirements

What are the effects of non-compliance?

“Those facilities unable to demonstrate measures to minimize the risk of Legionnaires’ Disease (LD) are at risk of citation for non-compliance with the CMS Conditions of Participation. Accrediting organizations will be surveying healthcare facilities deemed to participate in Medicare for compliance with the requirements listed in this memorandum, as well, and will cite non-compliance accordingly.”

Where to go for assistance?

- Industry Consultants & Experts
- ASHRAE Standard 188
<https://www.ashrae.org/standards-research-technology/standards--guidelines/guidance-on-reducing-the-risk-of-legionella>
- CDC WMP Toolkit
https://www.cdc.gov/control-legionella/php/toolkit/wmp-toolkit.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html
- CDC Training Module
https://www.cdc.gov/control-legionella/php/training/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/prevent-LD-training.html
- ASHE Monograph
http://www.ashe.org/management_monographs/mg2017platt_et_al.shtml

