



Sanders Laboratories, Inc.

Why Test?

June 2nd CMS Requirement to Reduce Legionella Risk in Healthcare Facility Water Systems to Prevent Cases and Outbreaks of Legionnaires' Disease (LD)



Memorandum Summary

• **Legionella Infections:** The bacterium *Legionella* can cause a serious type of pneumonia called LD in persons at risk. Outbreaks have been linked to poorly maintained water systems in buildings with large or complex water systems including hospitals and long-term care facilities. Transmission can occur via aerosols from devices such as showerheads, cooling towers, hot tubs, and decorative fountains.

• **Facility Requirements to Prevent Legionella Infections:** Facilities must develop and adhere to policies and procedures that inhibit microbial growth in building water systems that reduce the risk of growth and spread of *legionella* and other opportunistic pathogens in water.

Healthcare facilities are **expected to comply** with CMS requirements to protect the health and safety of its patients. Those facilities unable to demonstrate measures to minimize the risk of 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**.



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*ASHRAE Guideline 12-2000R Annex C Draft Language Recommends:

“If a choice is made to test for *Legionella*, it is recommended that tests be conducted by a laboratory that is **accredited by a regional, national, or international accrediting body**, according to a nationally or internationally recognized standard that, at a minimum, requires the use of revision controlled **standard operating procedures** for testing, documentation of the **performance** characteristics of tests, periodic **proficiency testing** and periodic independent audits verifying compliance. An example of such a recognized standard is **ISO/IEC 17025:2015**.

Reduce your Legionnaires' disease risk



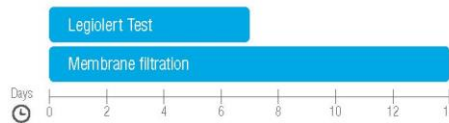
*Know if you need to act!

Benefits of the Legiolert Test:

- ❑ **Ideal for routine monitoring**
- ❑ **Accuracy.** Detects *Legionella pneumophila* when traditional culture methods do not.¹
- ❑ **Speed.** 7-day results means you can respond more quickly.
- ❑ **Consistency.** 99% reproducibility removes uncertainty. No retesting before taking action.
- ❑ **Relevance.** Detects and quantifies the dangerous pathogen.

React sooner with faster results

The Legiolert Test delivers a confirmed result **7 days sooner**



- Legiolert Test: 7 days for confirmed result
- Traditional culture methods: 10–14 days for a confirmed result



What actions are you required to do per CMS and JCAHO?



- **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 water system.
- **Implement a water management program** that considers the ASHRAE 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.