

WATER SAFETY PLANS



The NSF International Center of Excellence for Building Water Health is a resource for building owners, industry professionals and regulators to find valuable information and tools associated with water safety in buildings.

To evaluate building water systems, and their impact on human health, NSF is developing a robust suite of standards, protocols and training materials. These landmark initiatives address water safety throughout the entire building water system with the aim of preventing waterborne diseases, like *Legionella*, and injury while promoting public health and safety.

Water Safety Plan Development

Water is essential for many applications including industrial processes, hygiene, food processing and consumption – but with its many uses and benefits, it also poses risks. Traditionally, it was thought that water could only be harmful through the consumption of contaminated water in the potable water system, but studies have shown that safety concerns come in microbiological, chemical and physical forms and can cause harm by inhalation of water droplets and by skin contact, as well as by ingestion.

With the complexity of water management, the passive monitoring of water quality in all areas of a building is no longer sufficient for ensuring water quality and safety. NSF can help you develop a water safety plan that identifies risks for a variety of water hazards or we can provide a risk assessment specifically for *Legionella*.



WHICH BUILDINGS NEED A WATER SAFETY PLAN?

- > Hospitals and health care facilities
- > Food and beverage manufacturing
- > Corporate buildings
- > Industrial buildings
- > Universities
- > Hotels, and more

To minimize hazards associated with buildings and industrial facilities, NSF offers the expert development of water safety plans. Our goal is to help building owners or managers identify specific risks in their facilities. We conduct a risk assessment and use the findings to suggest measures to minimize those risks, which will become part of your internal water management plan. The water safety plan will provide details and specifics about how to control, monitor and identify potential hazards. If your facility already has an internal water management plan, we can review it to verify if all reasonable risks are being addressed.



LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT

If you are a building owner or facility manager who wants to address hazards related to *Legionella*, NSF offers an independent *Legionella* risk assessment. This assessment reviews all building water systems to find hazards associated specifically with the bacteria *Legionella*. Even if your facility already has a water management plan, NSF can provide you with an assessment and detailed report that will identify your specific *Legionella* risk areas.

More than ever, these assessments are necessary as *Legionella* outbreaks can cause fatalities and serious lawsuits. In fact, according to a study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding *Legionella* outbreaks, approximately 10 percent of cases of Legionnaire's disease result in fatalities.

WHAT IS COVERED IN THE ASSESSMENTS?

NSF's *Legionella* risk assessment and water safety plan development covers all parts of the building water system, including:

- > Cold and hot domestic water systems
- > Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs
- > Architectural fountains and waterfall systems
- > Cooling water systems (cooling towers, evaporative condensers)
- > Irrigation systems
- > Other water systems or equipment that pose reasonable risks

WHAT WE PROVIDE

To develop water safety plan or *Legionella* risk assessment, we:

- > Describe and evaluate the existing water system
- > Identify and assess potential hazards and predictable hazardous events
- > Identify and evaluate existing control measures
- > Propose improvements and/or new control measures
- > Recommend control measures, critical limits, monitoring procedures and corrective actions
- > Provide suggestions for validation

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