



# Cooling Tower Water Systems

Are you doing everything you can to prevent Legionnaires' disease at your facility?

Building owners need a reliable way to prevent their cooling tower systems from making headlines due to an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which has seen cases quadruple since 2000. While inspection, cleaning, and disinfection of your cooling tower can help, the most effective way to prevent an outbreak is with a thorough water management program. Best practices for such a program are detailed in the NSF P453 protocol and ASHRAE 188 standards, including routine and long-term system maintenance procedures. UL will perform an independent audit of your program to ensure it meets these criteria and is being appropriately followed. Third-party audits mitigate risk, demonstrate compliance, and protect your brand.

## Who should use this protocol?

Owners and operators of hospitals, healthcare facilities, hotels and other buildings with cooling tower water systems should use this protocol to ensure their cooling tower maintenance program and plan meets best practices. UL will confirm compliance and report implementation through quarterly third-party audits.

## Is this protocol required?

New York City and New York State require cooling tower owners to develop and maintain a cooling tower maintenance program and plan, and other states are considering similar measures. Additionally, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) now requires Medicare certified health care facilities to implement a water management program. UL can help facilities achieve compliance to the cooling tower requirements by verifying implementation and documenting compliance with NSF P453.

## Why should I have a third party audit of my cooling tower management program?

Even the best water management plan can become a major liability during an outbreak if not properly implemented or continuously followed. Third party audits by UL help ensure adherence to the plan and reduce risk of liability.



*“Many of the Legionnaire’s disease outbreaks in the United States over the past 15 years could have been prevented...Better water system management is the best way to reduce illness and save lives.”*

– Tom Frieden, Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



## Why choose UL?

UL is the leading voice for global safety and is trusted widely by regulators and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs). Our extensive network of auditors allows us to provide strong, localized customer service and a cost-effective solution for your cooling tower auditing needs.

## What is the Process?



Submit cooling tower plan to UL



UL evaluates plan against NSF P453, ASHRAE 188, and federal/state/local regulations



UL conducts quarterly audits, one on-site and three remote



A report is issued after each audit

## What does the report cover?

After each audit, UL issues a report detailing compliance to the protocol and any related regulations as well as opportunities for improvement. The document will help show your commitment to reducing the risks associated with your cooling tower water system and that you have taken all required steps to do so.



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