

Date: 18 May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

## **MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WHEN RE-STARTING COOLING TOWERS**

In preparation for businesses which will be allowed to resume operations following the gradual lifting of Circuit Breaker (CB) measures after 1 June 2020, the National Environment Agency (NEA) would like to remind all owners/occupiers of relevant premises with cooling towers (CTs) to conduct thorough cleaning and disinfection and ensure water samples pass the regulated limits before re-starting. This is to ensure the CTs do not pose a public health risk, as failure to do so could result in the potential spread of *Legionellosis* and other water-borne diseases.

2. During the CB period from 7 April to 1 June 2020, only CTs serving essential services are allowed to operate. For those not allowed to operate, CTs have to be drained of water and kept dry, unless they have auto-dosing pumps installed.
3. Premises owners/occupiers are reminded that all CTs which have not been in use for more than 5 consecutive days during the CB period, shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before re-starting. You may refer to the Guidelines for Managing Water Quality for CTs, Swimming Pools (SPs) and Water Fountains (WFs) during the Period of Heightened Safe Distancing Measures for guidance.
4. To provide sufficient time for the cleaning and testing of CTs to be undertaken prior to the reopening of their premises, premises owners or occupiers are allowed to prepare their CTs early so that they can be ready for use when the CB measures are lifted. Sufficient time should be given for the required tests to be done, including that for Total *Legionella* Counts (TLC), which takes about 7-10 days. The TLC is valid for 3 months while the SPC is valid for 1 month. The CT water treatment regime shall revert to that of the pre-CB period for all CTs after they are successfully re-started.
5. Water samples shall be collected at least 24 hours after thorough cleaning and disinfection are completed and tested by laboratories accredited by Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC). The water samples must pass the regulated limits stipulated in the Environmental Public Health (Cooling Towers and Water Fountains) Regulations before re-starting. Premises owners or occupiers are required to keep a copy of the service reports and submit them to NEA when required.

6. As prolonged stagnation of water in CTs may amplify microbial growth, maintenance personnel should don proper personal protection equipment (PPE) as part of safe work procedures to protect themselves.

7. We hereby urge all premises owners/occupiers to remain vigilant in ensuring that the water quality in CTs pass the regulated limits, so as to minimise risk of waterborne infection. NEA will continue to carry out checks on the water quality of CTs. We will not hesitate to take enforcement action for any contravention of the Regulations.

8. If you need any clarification, you may contact NEA via an online feedback form on the NEA website or myENV app.

Thank you.



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