



# NSW's Legionella Regulations Are Changing

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What Do The New Legionella Laws Mean For You?



# Latest Changes

**The latest changes to the Public Health Regulations now require that:**

- Cooling tower systems must now each have a risk management plan (RMP) developed every year for high risk systems, and every 5 years (at a minimum) for low and medium risk systems
- An independent audit of your RMP must be conducted every year
- Five years of documentation readily available upon request
- Your Certificate of RMP completion and audit completion must be lodged with the local authority
- Each cooling tower system must be registered with the local authority
- Each cooling tower must have its unique identification number (UID) clearly displayed on the tower
- All cooling tower systems in NSW must undergo monthly laboratory testing for Legionella and heterotrophic colony count (HCC)
- High levels of Legionella bacteria or a high heterotrophic colony count must be reported to the local government authority within 24 hours
- The remedial action for any high Legionella or HCC count must follow AS 3666.3 – this includes a return call to disinfect the system within 24 hours followed by a further return call for sampling within 3 to 7 days.



# Key Points For Owners/Managers

## Risk Management Plan

A risk management plan (RMP) must be in place for every cooling tower system, developed by a “competent person” and reviewed every year for high-risk systems, and every 5 years all others.

## Compliance Reporting

A new RMP compliance report must be issued to the occupier of the premises each month, summarising the activities undertaken on the site the previous month including: water chemistry, microbiological results and changes to the system or the local environment

## Provision of Documentation

Within four hours of request by an authorised officer, the occupier must make available all documents and information dating back 5 years, including all RMPs, audit certificates and reports, as well as the name and contact details of every person who has worked on the system.

## Operation & Maintenance

The occupier must operate and maintain all cooling tower systems in accordance with AS/NZS 3666 (Part 2 & 3). If the cooling tower system incurs a high HCC or Legionella result, the system must be disinfected and a subsequent water sample and test must be conducted.

## Unique ID Numbering

Occupiers must register their cooling tower systems with their local council, whereby each cooling tower will be issued with a unique identification number (UID), displayed on its cooling tower within 30 days of receipt, and where it is clearly visible to anyone inspecting the system.

## Monthly Testing

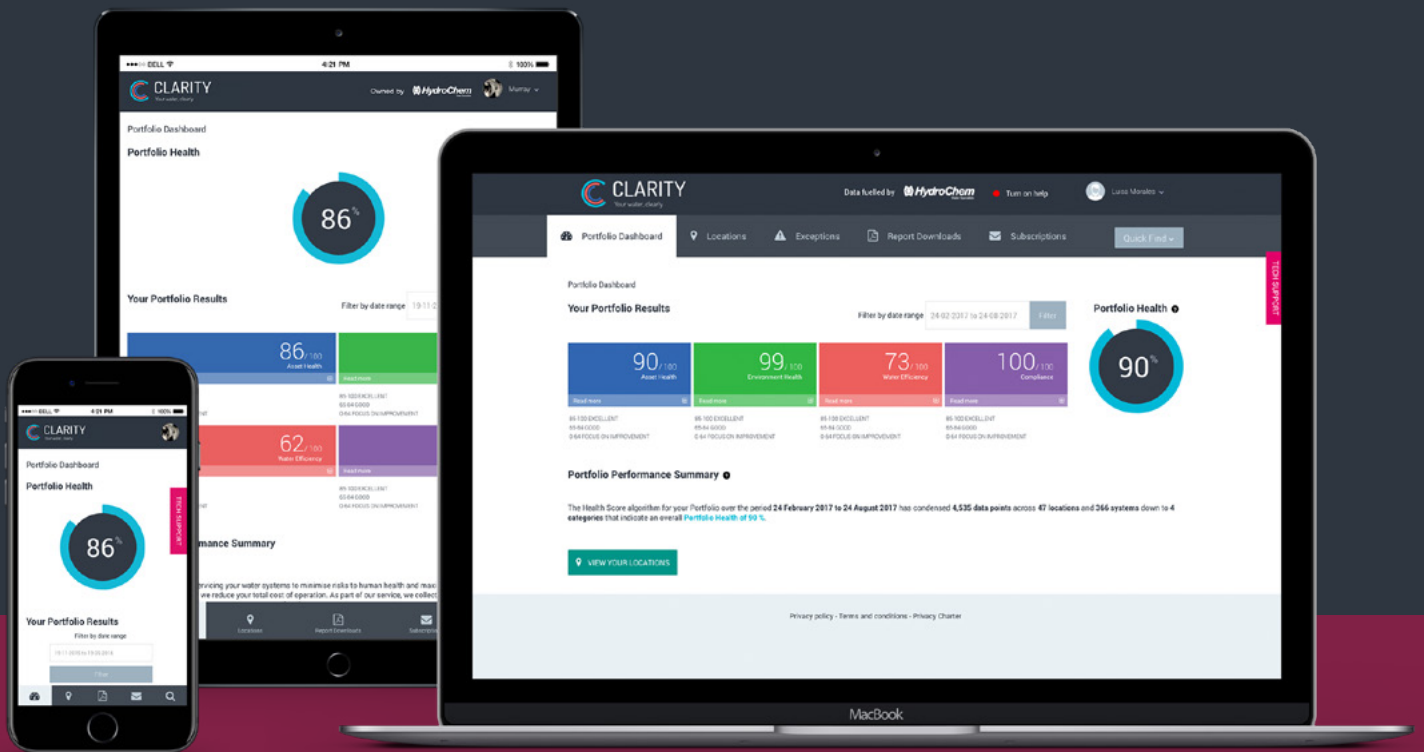
Occupiers must have the water of their water systems tested for Legionella and its Heterotrophic Colony Count (HCC) on a monthly basis. Any test results exceeding 1,000 CFU/mL Legionella or 5,000,000 CFU/mL HCC must be reported to the local government authority within 24 hours.





To assist facility owners/managers/occupiers in managing their cooling towers and meet these regulations, water treatment specialists HydroChem have developed Clarity.

Clarity is an online water management portal that offers real-time data about the health of your water systems, and collates all of your data points into one easy to read and understand application, making water management faster and easier.



Visit [hydrochem.com.au/clarity](http://hydrochem.com.au/clarity)



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