

Legionella

Evaporative coolers have a continual replenishment of water to replace water that is evaporated through the air-cooling process. Under certain conditions, there is a low potential for microbial growth within such water systems. Whilst there is no requirement to chemically treat the water with biocides or other additives, there is a direction within maintenance procedures for coolers that are not used for extended periods to be drained and left dry to prevent potential microbial growth.

Control measures

Renew water supply – weekly changing the water in the tank

Regular inspection – regular inspection should be undertaken of the cooling water supply and any recirculation system to ensure there is no visible evidence of algal or other contamination

Automatic draining of coolers – the PORT-A-COOL® machine only supplies water when the pump is on.

Periodic chemical treatment of water – Whilst chemical treatment of water within evaporative coolers is not a legislative requirement, most water treatment companies have slow release bactericides in tablet form. These can be placed in the cooler water basin. This is not recommended, as the water conditions in the coolers under normal operating conditions are not conducive to bacterial growth. Further, the use of biocides in water, which is to be evaporated directly into the workspace significantly elevates the risk of direct contamination of the air with chemicals.

Periodic testing of waters for bacterial presence. Standard testing of the water by recognised laboratories can be undertaken, although it is unusual to see such testing applied to evaporative coolers. General bacteria tests together with specific testing for legionella can be undertaken, however, for the most part normal operating conditions do not promote bacterial growth. The only risk time is when the coolers are switched off for an extended period. If the proper procedure of emptying the water during these periods is carried out, there should not be any bacterial growth.



Do you have questions or need to place a parts order?

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