

LEGIONELLA TESTING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Providing clarity on the key questions related to your water safety as employees are returning to your sites

Many businesses are thinking ahead and starting to prepare strategies for their sites to come out of lockdown. A major area of concern when reopening buildings can be the risk of Legionella. As part of our comprehensive Protek Facilities Assurance Solutions, Intertek is able to address these concerns and provide reassurance.



Never before has health, safety and wellbeing been so vital to every aspect of our lives. Intertek Protek is the world's first health, safety and wellbeing assurance programme for people, workplaces and public spaces. In a dynamic environment, the Protek programme provides support across all sectors, from manufacturing to retail sites to public places, ensuring society can be safer tomorrow than we were yesterday.

As businesses return to working on site, we are being asked important questions related to our Legionella testing services:

My building has been closed for a while; how can I check if my water is safe from Legionella?

Legionella testing protects the safety of the employees, tenants and members of the public who enter your buildings. Testing can be performed in two ways:

- A quick qPCR test that can be resulted in 1-2 days
- A traditional 10-day culture test

What are the benefits of qPCR testing?

qPCR test results can be available in as little as 24-hours and this option can give you a head start on ensuring this aspect of safety for your building as you reopen. Additionally, it will save you time to focus on other areas of safety checks.

There are a few points to remember if you are going to test via PCR:

- PCR looks for the DNA of Legionella bacteria, not the active cell that the culture looks for. It is a far more sensitive test and detects DNA from dead and damaged Legionella that the culture test will not show.
- The results are in genomic units and there is no way to directly compare these to the colony forming units from the standard culture test, so interpreting the results can be difficult.
- It is recommended that when planning your sampling to make sure you take a sample from the incoming mains, before any storage tanks you have on site. This will allow you to compare the changes in levels between the mains water coming into the building and the condition of the water as it circulates through your building.
- Take multiple samples from around the building. This will allow you to get a broader view of the whole building. A change in GU levels can highlight potential problem areas in your water system.
- Take a corresponding sample for culture. It may take the 10 days to fully analyse these samples, but it is still the adopted standard and will back up your results even if you have decided to open your building following the PCR results.

What do I need to do quickly to ensure safety?

When you get the results, if you are unsure of what they mean call your laboratory. Each laboratory has highly qualified people on hand who can talk through the results with you and help you understand them. Intertek's Protek programme is here to help all our customers return to our new normal as safely and as quickly as possible.

Solutions for a changing world

Based on Intertek's unique approach to total quality, our Protek suite of operational solutions provides your employees and customers with the confidence that their health, safety and wellbeing is your priority. Contact our experts today to discuss how Intertek Protek can support the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone in your organisation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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