

RG9: UKAS Accreditation

RG9: UKAS Accreditation of Bodies Undertaking Legionella Risk Assessment Activities

The RG9 document has been produced by the United Kingdom Accreditation Services (UKAS) and is currently a final draft for comment. The document can be accessed via the UKAS website and its purpose is to inform the industry of the proposed quality requirements associated with undertaking risk assessment for Legionella and associated sampling and analysis under accreditation. Accreditation will not be mandatory but will be advantageous to those organisations that comply with the standard.

Inspection bodies may be accredited for the following;

1. Risk assessment for Legionella control of the following;

- Cooling Towers and Evaporative Condensers
- Hot and cold water systems
- Spa pools
- Other systems containing water which is likely to exceed 20°C which may release a spray or aerosol during operation or when being maintained. (The range of "other" systems should be specified on the application form and within the in house procedure. This would include, for example: fire suppression systems, fountains and water features, vehicle wash systems)

2. Water sampling for the purpose of Legionella risk assessment (range of sampling to be specified)

3. Water testing for the purpose of Legionella risk assessment (range of testing to be specified)

Inspection bodies may be accredited for Legionella risk assessments by providing technical support services when assisting the "duty holder" in the development of a Legionella management plan. It is important to remember that this element of accreditation is a "support service" and the ultimate responsibility for the management of Legionella in premises lies with the "duty holder".

Where the inspection body intends to develop its inspection activities into unfamiliar sectors, then it should define the approach to developing its capability.

Where an inspection body is accredited for sampling and testing in relation to risk assessment, monitoring against ISO/IEC 17020 will include these activities. However UKAS will adopt the relevant requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General Requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories in relation to these activities. Laboratories that hold UKAS accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025, may obtain accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 by applying for accreditation to include the inspection activities.

An inspection body that does not have its own facilities for the sampling and testing may be accredited to ISO/IEC 17020 for risk assessments. The body will be required to demonstrate that it has formal contractual arrangements with organisations accredited for the sampling and testing in accordance with the guidance given in this RG9 document.

Samples taken by an accredited organisation shall be analysed by a laboratory holding UKAS accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 for the appropriate testing activities (e.g. Detection and enumeration of Legionella).

ALS Environmental offer a wide range of Microbiology analysis including Legionella and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. We provide microbiological and Legionella testing to a number of industries: Water Utility, Water and Waste Treatment companies, Facilities Management companies and Hospitals to meet your environmental testing requirements.

We have a dedicated Legionella laboratory which tests for the isolation and detection of Legionella bacteria. Our laboratory are a member of the Legionella Control Association and we participate in the Health Protection Agency Water EQA schemes for Legionella Isolations.