
Authorising Engineer (AE) (Water)

Purpose of Water AE

Incidents occur when water contamination in premises is exposing occupants to an unacceptable risk, outbreak or suspected outbreak of legionellosis, linked to the water system. The most common outbreaks relate to Legionella and Pseudomonas.

The emergence of any of these microorganism-born contaminations can lead to prosecution of management, unless they can provide robust evidence that appropriate management processes and controls are in place to manage water quality.

An independent investigation may avoid unnecessary compensation costs. In order to prevent the recurrence of an incident, a prompt investigation is often necessary to establish the factors leading up to, or actually causing, the incident.

Role and duties of the Water AE:

The Water Authorising Engineer is responsible for implementing, administering, and monitoring the application of current guidance for management of water systems, remaining independent of the organisation, with regard to the audit process.

- Assess and recommend, in writing, persons for appointment as Responsible Persons (RPs) to provide the cover for all systems for which management has responsibility
- Define processes in place in accordance with HTM 04 – 01 and the HSE’s technical guidance HSG274

- If necessary, recommend the suspension or cancellation of the appointment of a Responsible Person
- Maintain a register of all Responsible Persons

Other Water AE duties:

- To be a specialist advisor and provide independent advice for overseeing governance policies of water system management
- Reports to the management any deficiency in the number of suitably trained and experienced RPs, where this significantly impairs management’s ability to provide a safe and efficient service
- Reviews each RP’s water management and Legionella control experience by examining the relevant operating records of the systems and recommends refresher training as necessary
- Audits the Written Scheme of Legionella control processes and records the operational experience of each RP

INTERESTED?

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