



LCA LAUNCH NEW LOGO

The LCA is proud to announce the launch of its new logo. After a long relationship with the original logo, the LCA has re-branded as part of its drive and commitment to improve and develop progressively.

Over the coming months the new logo will gradually replace the old one, which will be phased out. The logo will be available to members in various formats suitable for use on websites, company literature and signage, and can be displayed with or without the membership number.

Contact us for a copy of the new logo. **Only current LCA members are permitted to use the LCA logo on their publicity.**

Please report any improper use of the LCA logo to the office on 01827 269063 admin@legionellacontrol.org.uk.

CONFUSED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WATER TREATMENT SERVICES AND CLEANING & DISINFECTION SERVICES ON LCA AREAS OF INTEREST?

2. WATER TREATMENT SERVICES includes some or all of the following:

- supply of water treatment chemicals to dose to water to treat it in order to prevent problems of scaling, corrosion, general fouling, microbiological fouling.
- a designed water treatment programme (WTP) that is specific to the site conditions, specifying the quantity of each chemical to be dosed per hour/per day.
- the control of the water quality by adjustment of dosing rates of the chemicals and adjustment of the rate at which water is bled from the system
- monitoring the water quality by chemical and biological method testing to ensure the design control levels of chemical are as specified in the WTP and that performance of the water system is as specified.

4. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION SERVICES is the periodic (annual, six-monthly, or as the system condition dictates) cleaning of tanks, cooling towers, etc., and the use of disinfectant (usually chlorine, but there are others, e.g., silver catalysed hydrogen peroxide, chlorine dioxide) to remove bacterial and other microbiological fouling/infection or chemicals to remove scale or other system deposits (usually acids and/or surfactants).

DON'T BE LATE FOR 2015 RE-REGISTRATION!

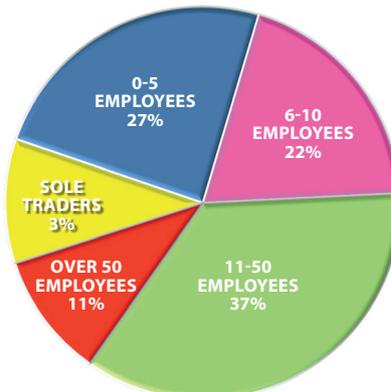
Thank you to 78% of the LCA members who re-registered successfully well before the 31 August 2014 deadline.

Any LCA members submitting late re-registration applications in July 2015 will be charged an additional £400 administration fee, so please ensure you get yours in on time!



LCA COMPANY MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

The LCA has been questioned on occasions about the demographics of its membership – is it dominated by large companies? Does it exclude sole traders? What is the mix of small to large companies? Following a review of data provided by members during re-registration, it is clear that there is a healthy mix of membership, with 59% of companies employing between 6 and 50 employees. In addition, the management committee is made up of representatives from various sizes of organisation, thus enabling decisions to be based fairly and without bias.



OPEN DAY

Another successful LCA event with over 130 delegates was recently held at the Drayton Manor Hotel in the Midlands on 1st October. Delegates were predominantly LCA members.



Dr Sam Collins from PHE presented on Healthcare and Waterborne Pathogens. Duncan Smith and Lorraine Medcalf from HSE gave presentations on HSE's Legionella Intervention Programme, rapid testing and the importance of controlling miscellaneous systems. Pauline Kirby, EHO, City of London, gave an up-to-the-minute presentation on Improvement Notice Process and Appeal Process. The LCA's mission, policies and procedures were conveyed by two of the LCA Committee members, Mike Hunter and Mike Quest. Thank you for all the positive feedback given and for your continued support. Surplus finances from the Open Day will be reinvested to promote and develop the LCA.

AGM

The LCA held its first AGM on 10 September 2014 at the LCA offices in the Midlands. Legionella Control Association became Legionella Control Association Limited in 2013; with the transformation to a company limited by guarantee handing the LCA a legal identity. This change enables the LCA to get insurance, and grants it the authority to impose sanctions on members who fail to comply with the Code of Conduct and the Standards for Service Provision.

NEWLY ELECTED LCA COMMITTEE MEMBER

The LCA Management Committee would like to welcome Dr Jennifer Newton of Express Microbiology, West Lothian. She has joined the LCA Committee as an Independent Member for the period 2014-17.

COMPETENCE CHECK

Is your competence check fit for purpose? Do you check and record the competence of individual employees and your sub-contractors? Are your competence checks kept up-to-date and carried out regularly?

Assessment

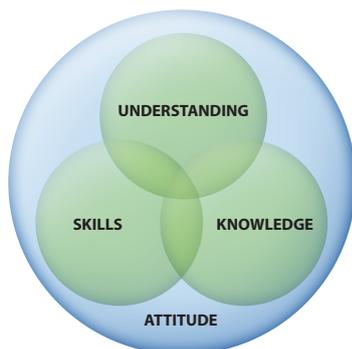
Competence needs to be assessed in a practical way. This will mean on-the-job assessment of employees or sub-contractors is required.

Records

There should be a record of competence assessments and any observations.

Ideally this will detail:

- Who was assessed.
- Where they were assessed.
- Date of assessment.
- What task was being assessed.
- The successful (or otherwise) completion of each step of the process against all identified knowledge, understanding and skill requirements.
- An assessment conclusion (assessed level).
- Any further training and or skill development needs identified
- An assessor signature.
- An employee signature.
- Last review and outcome.



DRY/WET SYSTEMS

The HSE has asked the LCA and the Water Management Society to form a working group to supply additional guidance to HSG274 Part 1 Legionnaires' disease: Technical guidance. The control of legionella bacteria in evaporative cooling systems. The supplementary guidance will include definitions, control measures and RA requirements of dry/wet, hybrid and adiabatic systems. The document is expected to be available Spring 2015.



TIME-SCALED ACTIONS IN LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENTS

Recommended corrective actions given in legionella risk assessments should be accompanied by a priority system to enable the customer (Responsible Person) to decide on the actual timing for implementation. The Risk Assessor should however express urgency where appropriate.

WHO DETERMINES FREQUENCY OF RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEWS?

The revised ACoP L8 issued in 2013 no longer recommends a 2 year period for revision, and has given ACoP status to carrying them out "regularly" without indicating a timescale.

At the recent LCA open day, the HSE stated, when questioned, that the frequency of reviews should be based on risk, although every 2 years would be a sensible starting point for many systems. The frequency of reviews should be determined by the dutyholder in conjunction with the appointed competent responsible person, and with the advice of the risk assessor. The exception to this being the need for a review when there is reason to believe that the original is no longer valid as stated in paragraph 47 of the new ACoP.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS LCA Training Days for maximum of 20 people will be held in the Midlands in Spring 2015. More HSE/LCA Events are planned for 2015.

NEW HSG274 - DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR PROCEDURES!

New HSE guidance was issued in 2013 and 2014. This is an important part of your commitment towards compliance, so please ensure all of your paperwork is updated to include the correct references to the right paragraphs in the updated ACoP L8 (4th edition) & HSG274.

FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS: YOUR STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Statement of Compliance (SoC) is not a legal document, but it is a commitment towards compliance with the LCA Code of Conduct and Service Standards. If you don't follow your commitment, you are putting your membership with the LCA at risk. Written procedures are in place for numerous reasons, including statutory and mandatory compliance and continual improvement of service standards - it is totally unacceptable to have written procedures that are not being followed.

RESPONSES TO COMPANY AUDIT ACTIONS - DON'T DELAY!

If you don't respond to Company Audit (CA) actions within 3 months, your membership status showing on the LCA website is at risk. The Checklists used by the LCA Assessor at the CA are a practical interpretation of your compliance with your procedures as stated in your SoC, and therefore overall compliance with the Code of Conduct and Standards of Service Delivery. Any failures to comply observed at the CA must be corrected within 3 months - the sooner the better!

LCA SPREADING THE WORD November 2014

- Howard Barnes, LCA Chairman, presented on the LCA at a recent EHO seminar in London, 'Water Safety - A Regulator's Perspective'.
- Bob Macleod Smith, past Vice LCA Chairman, conducted an LCA webinar, including a Q & A session, to IOSH members.

WHAT THE LCA CANNOT DO

- Act as a trade association lobbying on behalf of member companies
- Endorse or validate specific services, products or systems offered by LCA registered companies
- Investigate complaints by one LCA registered company against another unless there is immediate risk to public health