

STANDARD PLATE COUNT AND LEGIONELLA BACTERIA COUNT IN COOLING TOWERS

During circuit breaker period from 7 April to 1 June 2020 (inclusive), cooling towers serving essential services were allowed to operate with the maintenance frequency of once in every 2 weeks.

2 On 18 May 2020, NEA issued a guideline 'measures to be taken when re-starting cooling towers'. Premises owners with cooling towers that have not been in use for more than 5 consecutive days were reminded to thoroughly clean and disinfect their cooling towers before re-starting.

3 NEA has since audited multiple premises with cooling towers in industrial buildings, office buildings, shopping malls, education centre, etc.

4 Our audits showed that some premises owners have not adequately maintained and disinfected their cooling towers which were in use during the circuit breaker period and some have not thoroughly clean and disinfect their cooling towers before restarting. The water samples collected by NEA from these premises did not meet the Regulatory limit as stipulated under the Environmental Public Health (Cooling Towers and Water Fountains) Regulations.

5 Premises owners are strongly advised to ensure adequate maintenance of your cooling towers to keep *Legionnaires* at bay. NEA will continue to audit premises to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

6 We wish to inform you that any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the Environmental Public Health (Cooling Towers and Water Fountains) Regulations may be subjected to up to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and in the case of repeat conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

7 For further enquiry, you may use the feedback form available in MyEnv Mobile application or via the NEA website at <http://www.nea.gov.sg/feedback>. Thank you.

Regards,

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