

EMSD announces latest sampling results for legionella at fresh water cooling towers

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (September 7) announced that the department tested 121 water samples collected from cooling towers in 81 buildings during its routine inspections in August this year. Sixteen samples were detected to have a total legionella count at or above the upper threshold, which is 1 000 colony-forming units per millilitre. The latest statistics are set out in Annex 1.

The cooling towers in which the 16 samples were collected are located at 34 Kam Lam Street, Yau Tsim Mong; May Wah Court, 111-113 Chatham Road South, Yau Tsim Mong; 155 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong; Hewlett Centre, 52-54 Hoi Yuen Road, Kwun Tong; Kam Wah Mansion, 226-242 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po; 66 Fuk Wing Street, Sham Shui Po; 17 Saigon Street, Yau Tsim Mong; Wah Hing Industrial Mansions, 36 Tai Yau Street, Wong Tai Sin; 64 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong; Hoi Luen Industrial Centre, 55 Hoi Yuen Road, Kwun Tong; Luen Wo Building, 146 Hoi Pa Street, Tsuen Wan; Cooked Food Stall, Fu Shan Estate, Wong Tai Sin; 310 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po; and Kings Wing Plaza 1, 3 On Kwan Street, Sha Tin. The EMSD has issued nuisance notices under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance to the owners of the cooling towers requiring appropriate disinfection work to be done. Among them, the owners of 13 cooling towers have already completed the disinfection work. The EMSD has instructed again the owners of the cooling towers of the remaining cases at Cooked Food Stall, Fu Shan Estate, Wong Tai Sin; 310 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po; and Kings Wing Plaza 1, 3 On Kwan Street, Sha Tin, to complete the disinfection work within a prescribed period. Details of the cases can be found in Annex 2.

The EMSD publishes the latest statistics of the above information on a half-monthly basis on its website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/other_regulatory_services/cooling_towers/water_sampling/index.html).

The EMSD reminds the owners of fresh water cooling towers that they have the responsibility to design, operate and maintain cooling towers properly. They should arrange regular inspections, timely maintenance and periodic testing of the water quality in their cooling towers in accordance with the Code of Practice for Fresh Water Cooling Towers issued by the department to prevent the proliferation of legionella.