



# New Legionella control regs for New South Wales

Significant change is afoot in NSW for cooling tower systems management.

New South Wales Health has released Legionella control regulations designed to protect the public from Legionnaires' disease outbreaks caused by cooling towers. The new regulations have introduced significant changes to cooling tower systems management in the state.

Following two outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease in the Sydney central business district in March and May 2016, the Legionella Taskforce, headed by the NSW Health Chief Health Officer, worked with stakeholders to develop the new regulatory approach to managing cooling towers.

"We strongly support these changes," says Nick Duncan, M.AIRAH, CEO of HydroChem, which coordinated the water treatment industry submission.

With mandatory monthly testing and notification of very high levels of Legionella and/or HCC to local Government introduced on Jan 1, 2018, the new changes include:

- Compulsory Risk Management Plan (RMP) per cooling tower
- Annual audit for compliance to the RMP

- Each cooling tower requires the installation of a unique identification number
- The system must be maintained in accordance with AS/NZS 3666.3:2011 and serviced at least once a month by a "duly qualified person"
- A new penalty has been introduced for falsifying reports or results.

These new Legionella laws have a significant effect on the industry, with an estimated 6000 RMPs required by law to be completed by June 2019.

"For engineers, facility owners and managers, this means stricter diligence is required in maintaining cooling towers," says HydroChem NSW state manager Les Szabo, Affil.AIRAH. "And there are considerable fines for breaching the regulations." ■

A suite of supporting material for a range of stakeholders is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/legionellacontrol/](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/legionellacontrol/)

## Search for your NABERS

Finding green buildings on the internet will now be easier.

NABERS has launched an Australian-first search engine for green buildings.

"This new tool will allow people to find the best examples of sustainable buildings and green businesses in the country," says New South Wales Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton.

"Our state, commonwealth and local government partners can now easily highlight buildings and businesses that are leading examples of sustainability in their jurisdictions by checking out [www.nabers.gov.au](http://www.nabers.gov.au)."

Administered by the NSW government, NABERS is a national program that measures the environmental performance of buildings.

Meanwhile, NABERS has also brought new members into the National Steering Committee for a three-year term.

NABERS will be led by Michelle Croker from the Federal Department of Environment and Energy as government chair and Francesca Muskovic from the Property Council of Australia as stakeholder chair. ■

For more information go to [www.hvacrnews.com.au](http://www.hvacrnews.com.au)



Paul Burrows, Affil.AIRAH, is HVAC segment manager, Drives, at ABB in Melbourne.

### Responsibilities

I am responsible for local HVAC strategy; engaging with stakeholders within the Australian HVAC market; providing advice, support, and system application knowledge to ABB customers and channel partners; launching new HVAC products; and overall responsibility for our national business targets.

### Specialty

I've worked in many different parts of our industry: sales, operations, engineering, and project management. Most of my career has been in building automation, with a focus on optimising mechanical systems and energy efficiency.

### Passions

I really enjoy the technology advances impacting our industry. The growth in digitisation, machine learning, automation, and predictive analytics is bringing new opportunities and reinvigorating our markets, with new businesses emerging and disrupting some of the established players.

### Challenges

There is always a challenge to communicate innovation and improved value through our many-tiered contracting mechanisms, which focuses on lowest first cost, rather than lowest total cost. Many times I have found the most significant improvements and greatest value are achieved outside standard construction contract models where building owners directly engage specialist suppliers.

### Professional development

A large amount of what I need to keep informed is self-researched from a wide variety of sources. Several organisations I have worked with have contributed various product and system application training. AIRAH provides some great digital resources and training.

### Future plans

Continued support of innovation, improved energy efficiency, and digitisation trends within our industry. ■