

# B8 - Legionnaires disease

## 1 Scope

This standard is applicable to all Rio Tinto business units and managed operations, including new acquisitions, administration/corporate offices and research facilities located off site; during exploration, through all development phases and construction, operation to closure and, where applicable, for post closure management. It applies to Legionnaires disease in the workplace. It covers Legionella hazard evaluation, control programme design and control programme evaluation, to ensure that employees, contractors and third parties will not suffer adverse health effects.

## 2 Programme design

- 2.1 All equipment with the potential for generating Legionella (such as cooling towers and associated equipment, air-handling systems, hot water services and showers) must be identified and the risks of contamination and aerosol generation assessed.
- 2.2 Where there is an assessed risk that Legionella could grow in the system and cause harm, a programme must be in place such that:
  - a) all such equipment is identified on a register. The register must contain details of the regular maintenance, cleaning and checking programmes;

- b) control measures are in place to minimise aerosol emissions;
- c) there must be a documented water treatment programme, including procedures for inspection, assessment and maintenance of the controls; and
- d) new or retrofitted equipment is designed and constructed to minimise the risk of Legionella growth.

### **3 Monitoring**

- 3.1 Where available, the Legionella plate count test should be used if more effective methods are not available.

### **4 Controls**

- 4.1 Good maintenance procedures must be followed to minimise the risk of significant contamination of equipment with other bacteria and microbial organisms.
- 4.2 Adequate procedures must be available for disinfecting systems if significant concentrations of Legionella bacteria are present. Once disinfected, systems must be retested to confirm effectiveness of treatment.
- 4.3 Deleted

## Revision history

<b>Version no.</b>	<b>Effective date</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Authorised by</b>	
1	Feb 2003	Richard Gaunt & Ian Firth	ExCo	
<b>Version no.</b>	<b>Revision date</b>	<b>Revised by</b>	<b>Authorised by</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>
4	December 2008	Ian Firth; Adrian van Tonder	Manoel Arruda	Incorporation of suggested changes from operations and alignment with HSEQ management system.