



Use Legiolert for the CMS requirement to reduce *Legionella* risk

Accurate—Peer-reviewed studies show that the Legiolert® Test detects *Legionella pneumophila* when spread-plate culture methods do not.¹⁻⁵

Compliant—The Legiolert Test can be used for environmental testing as a part of a CMS-required water management plan to reduce the risk of growth and spread of *Legionella*.

Is routine testing for CMS compliance part of the CDC ELITE program?

No, the scope of the CDC ELITE Program is to identify laboratories that can assist with investigations into cases of disease. **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has no recommendations about the methods, frequency, or interpretation of results for routine testing** in the absence of disease transmission.⁶

What guidance exists for routine testing?

Premise owners should follow ASHRAE Standard 188 Annex C language.*

- ✓ Use an accredited laboratory.
- ✓ Choose a routine method of testing that is on the laboratory's scope of accreditation.

Legiolert is a culture method on the scope of laboratories that hold ISO/IEC 17025:2015, AIHA-EMLAP, and TNI accreditations. Laboratories that use Legiolert can perform serotyping on any well that is positive for *L. pneumophila* using the same procedures used after a traditional plate-based culture method.

Find a Legionella testing lab at
[idexx.com/LegionellaTesting](https://www.idexx.com/LegionellaTesting)

Choose the best test for CMS *Legionella* risk-reduction compliance

Benefits of the Legiolert® Test

- **Accuracy**—Detects *Legionella pneumophila* when spread-plate culture methods do not.¹⁻⁵
- **Speed**—7-day confirmed culture results means facilities can respond more quickly when *L. pneumophila* is found.
- **Consistency**—99% reproducibility removes uncertainty. No retesting before taking action.
- **Relevance**—Detects and quantifies the dangerous pathogen.



*ASHRAE Standard 188 Annex C Language

"When testing of environmental water samples is utilized, it should be performed by a laboratory with demonstrated proficiency in the subject method, such as may be evidenced by certification by a national, regional, or local government agency or by an accredited nongovernmental organization (NGO). Laboratories performing routine microbiological testing of environmental water samples should be accredited by a regional, national, or international accrediting body according to a nationally or internationally recognized standard, for example ISO/IEC 17025:2017, *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*, or similar. Legionella testing should be included in the laboratory's scope of accreditation. In the case of suspected or confirmed facility-associated disease, consult the AHJ."

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 188-2018 Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems. Annex C. Atlanta, GA. 2018, p.16

References

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3. Petrisek R, Hall J. Evaluation of a most probable number method for the enumeration of *Legionella pneumophila* from North American potable and nonpotable water samples. *J Water Health*. 2018;16(1):25-33. doi:10.2166/wh.2017.118
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5. Barrette I. Comparison of Legiolert and a Conventional Culture Method for Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* from Cooling Towers in Québec. *Jml AOAC Intnl*. 2019; 102(4):1235-1240. doi:10.5740/jaoacint.18-0245
6. Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Pneumonia, 2003. Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee: March 2004. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r5303a1.htm. Accessed March 26, 2020.