

Safety & Health Circular No. 14/2009

Construction Industry Council - Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather - Use of Water Spray Cooling Devices in Construction Sites

Date: 17 August 2009

Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) issued in June 2008: *Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather*, which recommends, “Cooling devices such as cooling fans with atomized water spray” as a measure to help relieve heat stress of workers, among others.

The Prevention of Legionnaires’ Disease Committee (PLDC) has raised concerns about the use of water spray cooling devices in construction sites in view of the difficulty in taking measures to prevent conditions which may allow proliferation of *Legionellae* in water. This issue has since been raised for further deliberation by the CIC Task Force on Working in Hot Weather.

According to the *Code of Practice on Prevention of Legionnaires’ Disease* (CoP), issued by the PLDC, under all circumstances the first option to be considered is to avoid, where reasonably practicable, the use of equipment which can create a spray of contaminated water. Where the use of such equipment cannot be avoided, the risk should be prevented or controlled by measures to reduce exposure to contaminated water droplets and to prevent conditions which allow proliferation of *Legionellae* in water.

The Code of Practice on Prevention of Legionnaires’ Disease (CoP) can be downloaded at https://www.emsd.gov.hk/filemanager/tc/content_645/COP-PLD_2016_a0119_tc.pdf

If you have any enquiries, please contact the CIC Secretariat on 3571 8716, or email: enquiry@hkcic.org