
Air-handling and water systems regulation review

Overview

The key focus of this review is to obtain feedback on the most effective option for managing the public health risks associated with commercial air-handling (e.g. cooling towers) and warm water systems in Western Australia (WA).

Cooling towers and warm water systems can be associated with outbreaks of Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever, if such systems are not maintained to particular standards.

In WA, this risk is currently managed under the ***Health (Air-handling and Water Systems) Regulations 1994***

https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_1543_homepage.html (Air-handling Regulations), which requires operators to maintain systems in accordance with specific Australian Standards.

The **Air-handling and water systems review discussion paper** (PDF 4MB) reviews the current management of this risk to determine the best option for WA in the future.

It is important that you read the discussion paper prior to completing the survey.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

You do not have to comment on all of the questions, and can focus on those areas that are important to you.

You can read the **survey questions here** prior to completing the online survey.

Why we are consulting

With the introduction of the *Public Health Act 2016* in WA, the Air-handling Regulations, which are adopted under the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*, must be reviewed and either repealed or replaced with new regulations in accordance with the new regulatory framework.

The **discussion paper** identifies four options for consideration for WA:

- **Option A:** Enable the industry to self-regulate by providing an industry guideline or Code of Practice.

- **Option B:** Retain the status quo by making equivalent regulations under the Public Health Act
- **Option C:** Develop new regulations to manage this public health risk with building requirements addressed by the Building Code of Australia
- **Option D:** Manage this public health risk under Occupational Safety and Health legislation

You also have the opportunity to provide feedback on alternative options that may not have been considered as part of this review.

Introduction

Please read the Discussion Paper before completing this survey.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You do not have to comment on all the questions, and can focus on those areas that are important to you.

The questions below relate to your personal information and who you represent. This information helps WA Health to ensure we have consulted with the right people.

Your organisational details will be included in the consultation summary report unless you indicate that you would like your response to be confidential.

The summary report will be made available on the **regulation review program** <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/Public-health/Public-Health-Act/Regulation-review-program> webpage on WA Health's website.

1 What is your name?

Name (Required)

2 What is your email address?

Email (Required)

3 Please indicate who you represent?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Local government State government Industry representative
 Member of the public Other

4 What is the name of the organisation you represent? If you are a member of the public please type 'public'.

(Required)

5 A consultation summary paper will be circulated upon completion. Details of the organisation you represent will be added to the paper. No personal emails or names will be included. Are you OK for your organisation details to be included in the summary paper?

(Required)

Please select only one item

No Yes

Preferred option

The Air-handling and Warm Water Systems Discussion Paper considers four options for WA.

- **Option A:** Enable the industry to self-regulate by providing an industry guideline or Code of Practice.
- **Option B:** Retain the status quo by making equivalent regulations under the Public Health Act
- **Option C:** Develop new regulations under the Public Health Act to manage this public health risk, with building requirements addressed by the Building Code of Australia
- **Option D:** Manage this public health risk under Occupational Safety and Health legislation

The consultation process also enables you to identify alternative options that have not been considered as part of this review.

6 Please indicate your preferred option for managing the public health risk associated with commercial cooling towers and warm water systems in Western Australia. Only select 1 option as part of this question.

(Required)

Please select only one item

Option A: Enable the industry to self-regulate by providing an industry guideline or Code of Practice.

Option B: Retain the status quo by making equivalent regulations under the Public Health Act

Option C: Develop new regulations to manage this public health risk with building requirements addressed by the Building Code of Australia

Option D: Manage this public health risk under Occupational Safety and Health legislation

None of the above

7 Based on your answer to the previous question, please explain why this is your preferred option.

Alternative options

Do you have any suggestions for alternative options that have not been considered in the discussion paper?

8 Please provide details of any alternative options below. Please explain your ideas by providing examples of complaints, case studies, data or other useful evidence and references.

alternative options

Additional comments

9 Do you have any other comments about the future management of cooling towers and warm water systems in WA? This is your opportunity to raise concerns about cost implications or any other unforeseen impacts associated with the other options discussed in the discussion paper.