



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118

July 2018



Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

CMS Publishes Requirements to Reduce *Legionella* Risks in Healthcare Facility Water Systems

In June of last year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a survey and certification memo stating requirements for healthcare facilities to develop and adhere to ASHRAE-compliant water management programs to reduce the risk for *Legionella* and other water-related pathogens.

Exposure to the bacterium *Legionella* can result in Legionnaires' disease (LD) or Pontiac fever. The CMS memo reveals, "Those at risk include persons who are at least 50 years old, smokers, or those with underlying medical conditions such as chronic lung disease or immunosuppression. Outbreaks have been linked to poorly maintained water systems in buildings with large or complex water systems including hospitals and long-term care facilities. Transmission can occur via aerosols from devices such as showerheads, cooling towers, hot tubs, and decorative fountains."

The policy memorandum applies to hospitals, critical access hospitals (CAHs) and long-term care facilities. CMS reports that the document is also intended to provide general awareness for all healthcare organizations.

"Modern distribution systems of treated municipal water have

In This Issue

[CMS Publishes Requirements to Reduce Legionella Risks in Healthcare Facility Water Systems](#)

[Protecting Workers from Ear Damage due to Noise Exposure and Ototoxicants](#)



Clark Seif Clark
(CSC)

csc@csceng.com
800.807.1118

[Office Locations](#)

[SERVICES](#)

[Asbestos](#)

[Lead](#)

[Mold](#)

[Indoor Air Quality](#)

dramatically reduced waterborne illnesses, but this safety success lulls many into perilous complacency," said Derrick A. Denis, Vice President of Indoor Environmental Quality of Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "A building's water treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure is often out-of-site and out-of-mind for many owners, property managers and facility administrators. Without deliberate and consistent water management programs to maintain and assess water systems, occupant health (particularly susceptible populations) is placed at an avoidable risk from opportunistic waterborne pathogens such as *Legionella*, *Pseudomonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Burkholderia*, *Stenotrophomonas*, nontuberculous mycobacteria and fungi that can grow and spread in a facility's water systems."

Helping healthcare providers meet these requirements and protect the health and safety of their patients are the microbial pathogen and building science professionals at Clark Seif Clark. Their experts develop, administer, monitor and test water management programs in healthcare facilities and other sensitive environments to comply with CMS requirements.

To learn more about the new CMS *Legionella* and water management program requirements or other environmental, indoor air quality, occupational, health and safety services, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Protecting Workers from Ear Damage due to Noise Exposure and Ototoxicants

Several months back, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) published an advisory bulletin about protecting workers' hearing. *Preventing Hearing Loss Caused by Chemical (Ototoxicity) and Noise Exposure* offers facts and tips to help safeguard the hearing of millions of at risk workers.

The bulletin specifically addresses ototoxicity (toxicity of the ear and its nerve supply) which can result from exposure to various chemicals or drugs that cause damage to the ear. This is an important topic as research has demonstrated that exposure to certain chemicals that are ototoxicants, may cause hearing loss or balance problems regardless of noise exposure. Substances, including certain pesticides, solvent and pharmaceuticals that contain ototoxicants, can negatively affect how the ear functions. Exposure could cause hearing loss and/or affect balance, which could be temporary or permanent.

[Workplace Health & Safety](#)

[Site Assessments](#)

[Energy Efficiency](#)

[Green Building](#)

[Litigation Support](#)

[FOLLOW ME ON facebook](#)

Follow CSC on
Facebook



[View our videos on YouTube](#)

Is It Safe?

"There are so many occupations, from machinists, construction workers and firefighters to metal fabricators and petroleum workers that could be at risk of exposure to ototoxicants and loud noises resulting in hearing loss," said Zahid Iqbal, MPH, CIH and Technical Director at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "Exposure to ototoxicants could occur through inhalation, ingestion or skin absorption. Any health effects caused by these chemicals could vary based on exposure frequency, intensity, duration, workplace exposure to other hazards and individual factors such as age. OSHA also warns of possible synergistic effects from the combined ototoxicant and noise exposure that could result in hearing loss even when exposures are below permissible exposure limits (PELs)."

Working to identify occupational noise hazards and exposure risks to ototoxic chemicals are the industrial hygiene and indoor environmental quality (IEQ) professionals at Clark Seif Clark. Their experts offer worksite assessments, inspections, testing, monitoring and training services to protect workers' hearing and health. CSC has even sponsored an educational video about ototoxicity and ear protection that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other occupational, indoor air quality, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com , email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.