

Cleaning Legislation

Introduction

There are several reasons why ventilation systems require regular internal cleaning:

- Human comfort and health
- Energy consumption
- System service life
- Cleanliness of operations or processes carried out in the ventilated area

This document provides an overview of the legislation, standards and codes of practice that govern the internal cleanliness of Ventilation Systems, as found in TR 19.



- **The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999** impose a duty on every employer to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of:
 - the risks to the health and safety of his/her employees to which they are exposed whilst they are at work, and
 - the risks to the health and safety of persons not in his/her employment arising out of or in connection with the conduct by him of his undertaking.
- **Regulation 5 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992** requires mechanical ventilation systems to be cleaned “as appropriate”. **Regulation 6** states, “effective and suitable provision shall be made to ensure that every enclosed workplace is ventilated by a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified air”.
- **AcoP6 (52) relating to Regulation 6 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations, 1992** states that “mechanical ventilation systems (including air conditioning systems) should be regularly and properly cleaned, tested and maintained to ensure that they are kept clean and free from anything which may contaminate the air”.
- More can be learnt about the benchmarks for cleanliness and dirtiness in **British Standard BS En 15780 ‘Ventilation for Buildings - Ductwork - Cleanliness of Ventilation Systems’**, as well as information on the requirements for cleanliness of newly installed duct systems.
- **AcoP5 (41 & 42) relating to Regulation 5 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992** outlines the need for regular maintenance including inspection and testing. **BS En 15780** provides information on the frequencies.
- **The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulation 1992 (124) Regulation 6 for ventilation** specifies that every enclosed workspace should benefit from a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified

air. Where this through is mechanical means, the mechanical ventilation systems should be maintained and cleaned. Failure to carry out these duties is a breach of the regulations.

- Approved code of Practice, **AcoP6 (52); Regulation 6**, offers 'practical advice on how to comply with the law'. Mechanical ventilation systems (including air-con) should be regularly and adequately cleaned. They should also be properly tested and maintained to ensure that they are kept clean and free from anything which may contaminate the air.
- **AcoP5 (41) Regulation 5**, states: An 'efficient state' means that the workplace and the equipment, devices and systems mentioned in these Regulations should be free of faults likely to affect the health, safety or welfare of workers and provide an adequate level of hygiene. if a potentially dangerous defect is discovered, the defect should be rectified.
- **Guidance 6 (58)** explains that for water-based ventilation systems, appropriate legionella precautions need to be taken in-line with **L8 legionnaires Disease Approved code of Practice and Guidance** *The control of Legionella bacteria in water systems*.