



WSF SAFETY BULLETIN

The general posting requirement for this WSF Safety Bulletin is in the crew day room, engine room, and terminal supervisor's office. Notify the oncoming watch or shift.

Subject: Potable Water Testing for Legionella Fleet-Wide

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To: All WSF Staff

From: Matt von Ruden, Director of Vessel Engineering and Maintenance

Dale Lathan, Director of Safety Systems/Designated Person

What Is Happening:

Parts of the potable water systems on WSF vessels can lay dormant for extended periods of time. This has been especially true during the covid pandemic. For this reason, WSF has begun testing for Legionella as part of its water management program. Legionella is naturally occurring in fresh water, but barriers are put in place to limit its growth. These barriers include treatment of water with sodium hypochlorite, maintaining potable water temperatures that limit Legionella's growth and flushing parts of the water system that have not seen use for extended periods of time to prevent water stagnation.

The initial rounds of testing have indicated elevated levels of Legionella in parts of the potable water systems on numerous vessels at WSF. Upon notification of the elevated levels of Legionella, WSF has isolated and taken the affected areas of the potable water systems out of operation. As well, WSF has used supplemental water treatment to the potable water systems to lower the Legionella levels. The supplemental treatments consist of both, additional sodium hypochlorite added to the system and by increasing the temperature of the potable water to temperatures high enough to kill the Legionella. The method used is determined by the location and the number of locations of increased Legionella levels found in the potable water system.

Due to the elevated levels of Legionella found with this last round of tests, the Maintenance Port Engineers, vessel Staff Chief Engineers and crews, the Safety Department, and Centerplate have been working together to isolate the affected portions of the potable water systems and to provide supplemental treatment to the systems, in line with recommendations from the CDC. All affected areas have been isolated, and the supplemental treatment is being conducted in a systematic manner. In the meantime, they have also been working in unison to develop a more comprehensive potable water test plan, to amend existing SMS policy to better explain supplemental potable water treatment for elevated Legionella test results, and to develop a more robust water management program.

Legionella is only a hazard if inhaled as an aerosol or droplet. The water is safe for drinking and hand washing but not showering or other activities that could produce aerosols, like spray dishwashing.

The results of this work will become part of WSF's water management program in the future.