

FEATURE

Legionella disinfection systems receive conditional approval

In moves aimed at preventing major outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease the NSW Health Department has released two lists of approved disinfection systems for use in water cooling systems.

However, the approvals are conditional and only for 12 months when the systems will be subject to further review. The department's deputy chief health officer Dr Gavin Frost said, "The products have been conditionally approved so that the companies involved can provide us with further information on their effectiveness in local working environments after 12 months.

"The products for disinfection are required to be microbiologically monitored by the companies in accordance with the NSW code of practice for control of Legionnaires' disease.

"Based on independent analysis of the products their continued approval will then be considered," he said.

Industry sources have been critical of the approvals as giving legitimacy to unproven techniques.

The AIRAH Journal invited companies with conditionally approved products to submit details for publication.

The following listings are for the information of readers and are not meant to be a complete review of the available products. They represent only a brief guide to some of the disinfection systems that have received conditional approval. Anyone planning to use these systems should seek proper professional advice.

NSW Health Department List No. 1



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Dr David Lloyd and Mike Birchall of Hydro Magnetics displaying the Sabre water treatment unit at the AIRAH 1993 International Exhibition

For the conditionally approved **Sabre** magnetic water treatment system listing refer **NSW Health Department List No. 2**, page 29 displayed below

NSW Health Department List No. 2

In a later list (No. 2) the department has included the following companies and processes:

Hydro Magnetics Pty Ltd, 20 Stack Street, Fremantle, WA. *Sabre water treatment units*. This system is a new Australian development. In cooling tower water treatment Sabre provides: nonchemical killing of Legionella, algae and slime; scale prevention and removal; corrosion inhibition.

The process replaces chemicals as no biocides, inhibitors or antiscaling chemicals are required. It prevents scale formation which removes the need for chemical or physical cleaning and reduces maintenance costs while it improves system efficiency and cleans as it operates.

Chemicals are not atomised and inhaled by customers, staff or neighbours. Chemicals are not discharged to the environment either in sewerage or by wind drift.

Sabre provides continuous remote self-monitoring of water treatment. [The two key critical features of the engineering are the static magnetic field strength and the pulsing rate of magnetic field.](#)

Sabre offers inbuilt alarm systems to provide a low alarm on the static field and a high and low alarm on the pulsing rate. These alarms can be remotely indicated to an independent control board; interfaced into a computer based building management system; or connected to a modem system into a central computer allowing printout of daily operating conditions.