

BS 8554:2015



BSI Standards Publication

**Code of practice for the
sampling and monitoring of
hot and cold water services
in buildings**

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 September 2015. It was prepared by Technical Committee EH/3, *Water quality*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Information about this document

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

In particular, it is expected that users of this standard understand the importance of sampling using aseptic techniques.

Test laboratory accreditation. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of selecting test laboratories that are accredited to BS EN ISO/IEC 17025 by a national or international accreditation body.

Hazard warnings

WARNING. This British Standard calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives guidance and recommendations for investigative and planned collection of hot and cold water samples during the life of a building, including sampling locations and the selection of laboratory or on-site testing for those samples.

This standard covers sampling from wholesome water systems and water used for make-up where the water is used for immersion or contact, such as spas, swimming pools and therapeutic units. Wholesome water services are systems designed to provide hot and cold water, including water for cooking, drinking and food preparation or washing.

Recommendations are given for sampling for the following reasons:

- a) one-off sampling for compliance, to evaluate whether the water quality conforms to regulations, guidance, specifications or imposed conditions;
- b) ad hoc sampling for verification, to provide assurance that the water being used is suitable for its intended use;
- c) sampling for investigation – searching for the cause of concerns or complaints about water quality;
- d) random sampling – economically-driven or voluntary sampling used to help confirm or otherwise that water hygiene controls remain effective; and
- e) identification and implementation of schemes for commissioning, routine and investigative monitoring of water quality.

This standard is not applicable to the sampling of water following outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease or for the sampling of water from closed systems.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Standards publications

BS 7592:2003, *Sampling for Legionella bacteria in water systems – Code of practice*

BS 1883, *Washer-disinfectors*

BS EN ISO 5667-1, *Water quality – Sampling – Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes and sampling techniques*

BS EN ISO 5667-3, *Water quality – Sampling – Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples*

PD 855468, *Guide to the flushing and disinfection of services supplying water for domestic use within buildings and their curtilages*

Other publications

[N1] AUTOMATIC VENDING ASSOCIATION OF BRITAIN (AVAB). *Technical Handbook: Water Hygiene and Quality in Food and Drink Vending and Dispensing*. Cheam: AVAB. 1997.

[N2] DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. *Choice Framework for local Policy and Procedures 01-06 – Decontamination of flexible endoscopes: Operational management*. London: Department of Health. 2013.