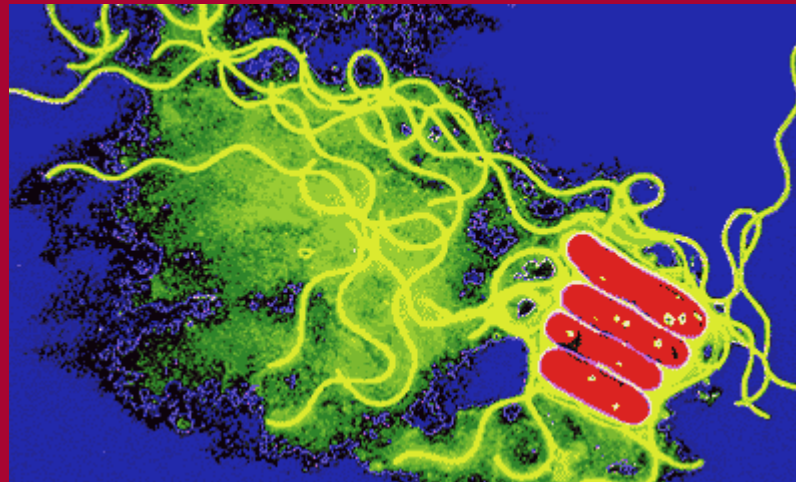


# Legionella risk assessment



Dr Paul McDermott  
HSE Biological Agents Unit

# Content

- HSE's Biological Agents Unit
- Why RA is so important
- BS 8580



# HSE's Biological Agents Unit



- Located at HQ in Bootle
- 14 x Specialist Health & Safety Inspectors
  - **Microbiology & Molecular Biology disciplines**
- Approximate total of 26 staff with UK-wide remit
- Deliberate work with biological agents
- Incidental exposure to biological agents

# HSE's Biological Agents Unit



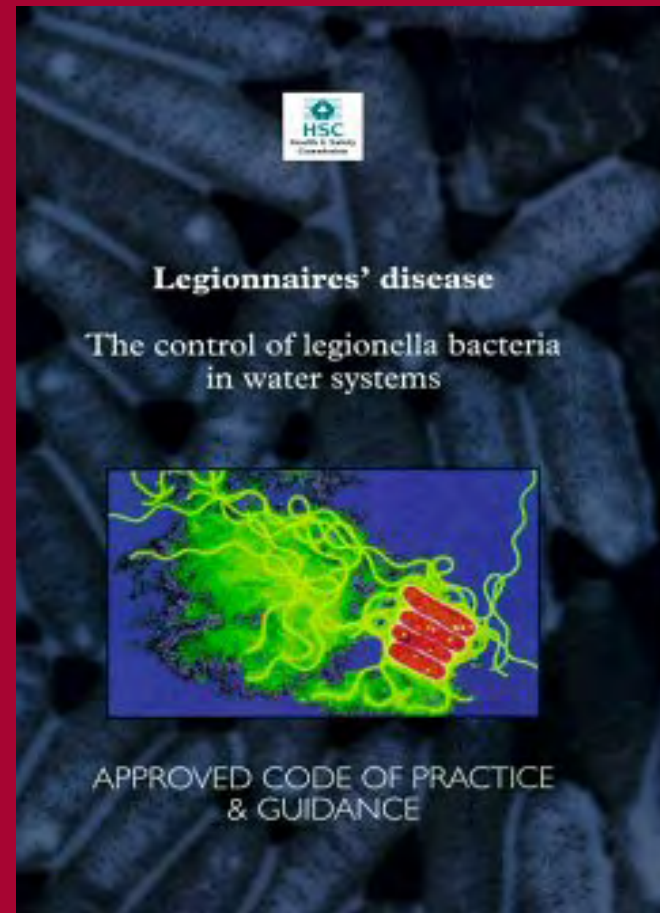
- HSE **Legionella Committee**
  - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/about-us/meetings/legionella/terms.htm>
- Legionella Control Association (**LCA**) committee
- Legionella **training** for inspector colleagues in HSE and LAs
- Collaborative **research** programmes with external bodies
- Development of supplementary **guidance** for L8
- Support to HSE colleagues in preventive **inspections** of Legionella risk systems and in outbreak **investigations**
- Expert **witness** to support HSE prosecutions
- Contribute to development of **standards**



# Approved Code of Practice (L8)

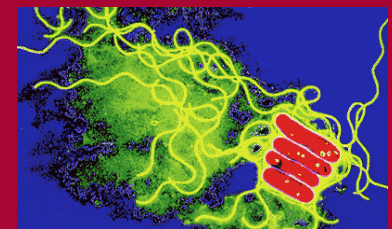


- Identify and assess sources of risk
- Prepare a scheme for preventing or controlling the risk
- Implement and manage the scheme
- Keep records and check that what has been done is effective



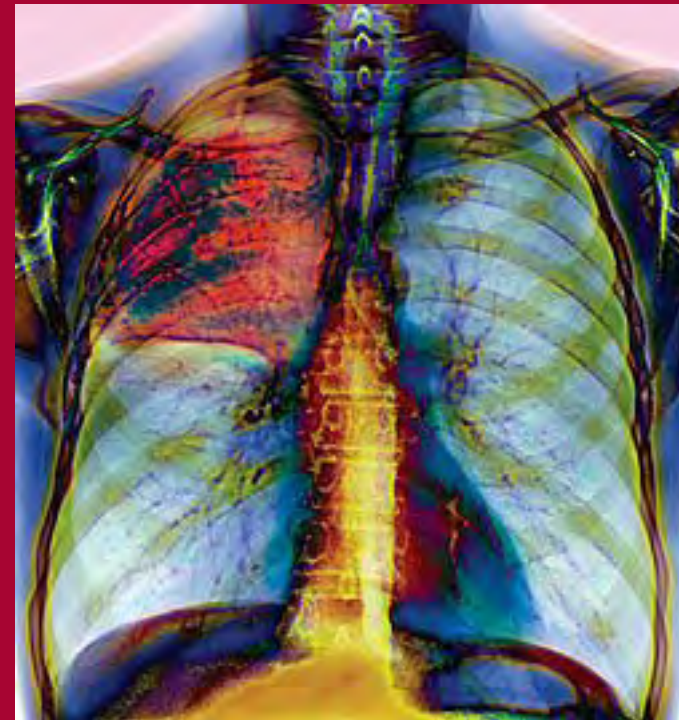
# Risk assessment

- **Fundamental** to managing risks of exposure to legionella bacteria
  - Legal requirement in ACOP paragraph 23
    - **Suitable** and **sufficient**
- BS 8580
  - Practical advice
- **Written scheme** ACOP paragraph 53
  - ...precautions to be taken



## No risk assessment

- Barrow-in-Furness 2002
  - 180 cases, 7 deaths
- JCB 2008
  - 2 cases
- DEBA UK Ltd 2009
  - £24k + £17k



**Thank you**

