FOR OPERATORS OF OMNITUB INSTALLATIONS · SEPTEMBER 2026

Commercial Water Safety & Compliance Pack

Legionella control (ACOP L8 & HSG274) · the safe hot-water temperature regime · thermostatic mixing valves

This pack is for anyone specifying, installing or operating Omnitub baths, plunge pools and recirculating systems in a commercial, hospitality, wellness or healthcare setting. It summarises the duties UK operators carry around legionella and scald safety, the temperature regime that satisfies both, and the monitoring that keeps you compliant — so you can brief your installer, facilities team and water-safety adviser from one document.

What this is — and what it isn't

It is practical guidance to help you meet your legal duties. It is **not** a site-specific legionella risk assessment, a water-safety plan, or a substitute for advice from a competent person. Every premises is different — you remain the duty holder, and you must commission a written risk assessment (BS 8580-1) for your own system.

IDENTIFY THE DUTY HOLDER

A named person responsible for water safety, with the authority and competence to act.

ASSESS THE RISK

A written legionella risk assessment by a competent person, reviewed regularly and on change.

CONTROL & MONITOR

A written scheme: the temperature regime, TMVs, flushing and recorded monitoring.

KEEP RECORDS

Logs of temperatures, TMV servicing, cleaning and reviews — your evidence of compliance.

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The legal framework

Legionella

Under the **Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974** and the **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)**, anyone in control of premises has a duty to assess and control the risk of exposure to legionella bacteria. The HSE's Approved Code of Practice **L8** (*Legionnaires' disease: the control of legionella bacteria in water systems*) and its technical guidance **HSG274** set out how. An Approved Code of Practice has special legal status: if you are prosecuted and have not followed it, you must show you achieved compliance another way.

- Appoint a competent **responsible person** to manage the risk.
- Carry out and maintain a written **legionella risk assessment** (to **BS 8580-1**), reviewed regularly and whenever the system or its use changes.
- Implement a written **control scheme** and keep records for at least five years.

Scalding

You also have a duty of care to protect users from scalding — particularly children, older people, and anyone with reduced mobility or sensation. Water stored hot enough to control legionella (≥ 60 °C) will scald in seconds, so it must be blended down at the point of use. This is the job of a thermostatic mixing valve.

Spa & plunge pools — an extra duty

A plunge pool or hot tub shared by more than one bather is a **spa-pool system**. These carry additional duties under HSE **HSG282** and the PWTAG technical guidance — covering circulation, filtration, disinfection (sanitiser residual), microbiological testing and drain-down. Treat a multi-user installation as a spa pool, not a domestic bath.

The safe temperature regime

The control principle is simple: keep water out of the **20–45 °C** range where legionella multiplies — hot water hot, cold water cold — then blend it to a safe temperature only at the point of use.

WHERE	TARGET	WHY
Hot water — stored	**≥ 60 °C**	In the calorifier / cylinder — hot enough to control legionella.
Hot water — distributed	**≥ 50 °C (≥ 55 °C healthcare)**	Reached within 1 minute at every outlet; flow ≥ 60 °C, return ≥ 50 °C.
Cold water — stored & distributed	**< 20 °C**	Below the range in which legionella proliferates (20–45 °C).
Delivered at a bath (blended)	**≤ 44 °C**	Maximum safe fill temperature for a bath — via a TMV at the point of use.
Delivered at a basin / shower	**≤ 41 °C**	Per NHS HTM 04-01 / D 08 safe hot-water guidance.

Healthcare and other higher-risk premises follow the tighter limits in NHS **HTM 04-01**. The blended limits above (NHS **D 08**) are maximum safe delivery temperatures — your TMV should be commissioned to them.

THERMOSTATIC MIXING VALVES

Thermostatic mixing valves (TMVs)

A TMV blends stored-hot and cold water to a safe, stable temperature right at the outlet, and **fails safe** — shutting off the flow if the cold supply fails so a user can never be delivered scalding water. Fitting TMVs lets you store and distribute water hot enough to control legionella while still delivering it safely.

- Use a valve certified to the **TMV2** scheme for commercial & hospitality use, or **TMV3** for healthcare and other high-risk settings.
- Install the valve as close to the outlet as practicable — long pipe runs after the valve become a stagnation (dead-leg) risk.
- Commission to the correct blended temperature (≤ 44 °C for a bath fill), then carry out in-service tests at **6–8 weeks** and **12–15 weeks** after commissioning, and at least **annually** thereafter.
- Record every test: blended temperature and the fail-safe shut-off check.

Managing the risk in practice

Your written control scheme turns the risk assessment into routine. The essentials:

- **Avoid stagnation** — design out dead-legs and little-used branches; flush any outlet that sits unused.
- **Hold the temperatures** — keep hot hot and cold cold, and monitor that you are.
- **Keep it clean** — descale and disinfect showerheads and spray outlets; clean cold-water storage.
- **Recirculating systems** — maintain turnover, filtration and a disinfectant residual, and drain/refresh to your spa-pool scheme.
- **Review** — revisit the risk assessment regularly and whenever something changes.

Recommended monitoring & maintenance schedule

FREQUENCY	TASK
Before each session / daily	Visual check; confirm TMV-blended fill temperature; flush any outlet unused that day.
Weekly	Flush little-used outlets for several minutes; record. Check showerheads spray cleanly.
Monthly	Temperature-check sentinel outlets (nearest + furthest from the heater): hot ≥ 50 °C within 1 min, cold < 20 °C. Log readings.
Quarterly	Dismantle, descale & disinfect showerheads / spray outlets. Inspect TMV strainers.
6–12 monthly	In-service test of every TMV (fail-safe shut-off + blended temperature). Service per manufacturer.
Annually	Inspect & clean cold-water storage; review the calorifier; review the Legionella risk assessment.
On any change	Re-assess when the system, use or occupancy changes, or after a period out of use.

Indicative — your own risk assessment sets the actual frequencies and sentinel outlets for your system.

Notes for Omnitub installations

How our products fit a compliant water system:

- **Surface.** Omnigel is smooth and non-porous — the colour runs through the Omnigel, sealed with Omnicoat, never painted on — and easy to clean. It carries a 30-year warranty on the Omnigel shell for orders from 2024 (10 years before).
- **Bath fills.** Fit a TMV on the bath fill and keep the run from valve to spout short. Flush before first use after any idle period.
- **Recirculating cold-plunge & heated systems.** Specify adequate turnover, filtration and sanitiser, and a drain-down regime, and treat the installation as a spa-pool system (HSG282 / PWTAG). Our chillers and heaters are sized in OmniSoak.
- **Sizing & running.** Use the OmniSoak calculator at omnitub.co.uk/pages/omnisoak for the water volume, the hold temperature, insulation thermal performance and the electrical load for your installation.

Why temperature control and insulation go together

Insulation and a cover affect how quickly a heated system loses temperature and how much energy it takes to hold its set point. OmniSoak (omnitub.co.uk/pages/omnisoak) shows the figures for your installation — specify the insulation thickness there.

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Sources: HSE ACOP L8, HSG274, HSG282 · BS 8580-1
NHS HTM 04-01 / D 08 · TMV2 & TMV3 schemes

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This pack is general guidance only and does not constitute a legionella risk assessment, water-safety plan or professional/legal advice. Standards and best practice change — always work from the current editions and a site-specific assessment by a competent person. You remain the duty holder for your premises. Nothing in this pack limits your legal rights, or any liability that cannot be excluded by law.