

BULLETIN 2018-002-PL

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Discharge from Cooling Tower Drains

This Bulletin is to clarify that all drains connected to cooling towers are required to discharge to an acceptable sanitary connection.

Best management practices for the control of Legionella in cooling towers typically require the use of corrosion inhibitors, biocides and other chemical treatments. These additives and the recirculation of water through the mechanical system itself may add deleterious substances to the water medium and as such waste water and piping from these mechanical systems cannot be connected to a storm drainage system.

Building owners, operators, and consultants are advised that the Building By-law prohibits any arrangements that would likely lead to movement of waste water from such equipment into the storm drainage system by requiring the installation of a drainage system in accordance with Book II - Division B, Sentence 2.4.2.1.(1) of the Building By-law (see below).

2.4.2.1.(1) Connections to Sanitary Drainage Systems

- e) ... the following devices shall be indirectly connected to a drainage system
 - i) a device for the display, storage, preparation or processing of food or drink
 - ii) a sterilizer
 - iii) a device that uses water as a cooling or heating medium
 - iv) a water operated device
 - v) a water treatment device or
 - vi) a drain or overflow from a water system or a heating system

In accordance with the above requirements, all cooling tower installations are thereby required to direct the blowdown and all other drains from the associated mechanical systems to an indirectly connected sanitary drainage system in accordance with the requirements of the Building By-law and all other regulatory requirements including, but not limited to, metroVan and City of Vancouver requirements.

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