

Audits

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What are Audits?

Government legislation states that Cooling tower Risk Management Plans (RMP), otherwise known as Audits, must be carried out annually. There are three key factors this assessment addresses:

- Whether the RMP been review in the last 12 months
- Whether the RMP is addressing the *5 critical risks* (see below) And
- Whether the RMP is being implemented correctly.

Audits must be carried out by an accredited professional with no conflict of interest' i.e. They cannot be associated with water treatment companies, be an owner of the land or system, be involved in the installation, maintenance or testing of the system and cannot have been involved in the writing of the RMP.

Accreditation is supplied by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and involves rigorous training over two aspects. Internal Auditor Qualification and the Cooling Tower RMP Auditor's Course. For information on how to create a RMP, please click [here](#).



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Why are Audits so important?

Audits assess the 5 critical risks which are:

- Stagnant Water
 - Allows solids in water to 'settle' as sludge, preventing biocides from reducing Biofilm. Also causes corrosion.
- Nutrient Growth
 - Allows rapid growth of bacteria
- Poor water quality
 - Increases Legionella population
- System deficiencies
 - Such as High water temperature speeding up bacteria growth or an undersized system
- Location and access issues
 - Placement of Tower can be subject to environmental contamination– i.e. a dusty building site or be situated where large numbers of people are at risk of contagions expelled from tower such as walkways.

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