

**Background**

ASHRAE Standard 188P, “Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems,” Appendix C guidelines recommend, “When testing of environmental water samples is utilized, it should be by a laboratory with demonstrated proficiency in the subject method, such as may be evidenced by certification by a national, regional, or local government agency or by an accredited non-governmental organization (NGO).”

The following are sources for identifying laboratories that offer Legionella testing. Ask these laboratories whether they test specifically for *Legionella pneumophila*, the primary causative agent of Legionnaires’ disease.

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**CDC Environmental Legionella Isolation Techniques Evaluation (ELITE) program participants**

CDC ELITE laboratories receive a Certificate of Proficiency that indicates that the laboratory’s procedures are consistent with federal recommendations and that they meet or exceed typical industry standards for recovery of *Legionella*. A list of CDC ELITE program participants is available [here](#).

**EMLAP-accredited laboratories**

Laboratories accredited through the American Industrial Hygienists Association’s (AIHA) Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP) may choose to include *Legionella* among their fields of testing. A list of EMLAP-accredited laboratories is available [here](#).

**ISO 17025-accredited laboratories**

In addition, other laboratories accredited to ISO 17025:2005 may include *Legionella* culture testing on their scopes of accreditation.

**Testing with Legiolert™**

For information on the procedure any laboratory can use to test for *Legionella pneumophila* with Legiolert, an easy, accurate culture-method that provides a confirmed result in seven days, please visit [idexx.com/water/products/legiolert.html](http://idexx.com/water/products/legiolert.html) or click [here](#).