



**Level 3 Award in**

**Legionella Risk Assessment for Simple  
Domestic Style Water Systems**

Qualification Specification

Qualification Recognition Number: 601/8276/3

ABBE Qualification Code: AwardLRAL316

**April 2019**

## **Why this document is being revised**

This document has been revised by ABBE in April 2019. A summary of the changes made to this document is, as follows:

- New address added to 1.4

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# 1. ABBE

## 1.1 Introduction

ABBE, the Awarding Body for Building Education is a forward thinking organisation that offers a range of apprenticeships, qualifications, benefits and support.

ABBE is regulated by Ofqual for the delivery of a range of qualifications. Our qualifications are nationally recognised helping learners to achieve their full potential and ambitions.

The full range of qualifications can be found on our website <http://www.abbeqa.co.uk>

## 1.2 Our values, vision and mission

### Our Values: Quality through Standards

Our aim is to provide a high quality experience by building a strong community of mutual support and trust. We can use our collective talents to build meaningful partnerships to help us all to achieve our goals. ABBE is a recognised Awarding Organisation with strong professional integrity.

### Our Vision:

Is that every learner is confident, successful and has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

### Our Mission:

ABBE Educates, inspires and empowers learners

## 1.3 Qualification Specification

This is the ABBE Qualification Specification for the ABBE Level 3 Award in Legionella Risk Assessment for Simple Domestic Style Water Systems. The aim of this specification is to provide learners and centres with information about the content of this qualification.

This specification is a live document and, as such, will be updated when required.

Additional qualification details are available for ABBE approved centres in the ABBE qualification handbook.

## 1.4 Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this qualification should be addressed to:

ABBE  
Birmingham City University  
University House  
15 Bartholomew Row  
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Telephone: 0121 331 5174  
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Website: [www.abbeqa.co.uk](http://www.abbeqa.co.uk)



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## 2. Qualification Information

### 2.1 Qualification Purpose

Over the past few years, instances of illness and death due to outbreaks of Legionnaires Disease, caused by Legionella bacteria, have appeared on the news and in the press. While this may have raised public awareness of the risks of Legionella, a duty of care on employers has been imposed by UK legislation since the mid-seventies. Employers in the residential built environment such as those in control of premises, including landlords, are required to understand the health risks associated with legionella. Duties under the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 (HSWA) extend to risks from legionella bacteria, which may arise from work activities.

Organisations are required to assess the risks posed by systems and equipment containing and/or using water to enable, '...appropriate control measures to be put in place to protect the health and safety of employees and members of the public who could be affected by work activities.' The person appointed to carry out the risk assessment may be the duty holder/Responsible Person, or an employee of the duty holder/Responsible Person, but in many cases it is an external contractor. In each case, they should be able to demonstrate that they have specialist knowledge of Legionella bacteria, relevant water treatment and the water system(s) to be assessed, and are competent to carry out any necessary surveys, measurements and sampling.

The guidance to the Approved Code of Practice L8 regulations (ACoP L8) says that the Legionnaires Risk Assessment should be reviewed at least every 2 years.

### 2.2 Who could take this Qualification?

This qualification is a professional qualification for those who wish to pursue a career as a Legionella Risk Assessor. Once qualified, Domestic Legionella Risk Assessors will be able to carry out Legionella Risk Assessment activities on simple hot and cold water systems typical of those domestic in style and spa pools.

The qualification is available both to experienced practitioners and also to those who have little or no previous background knowledge or experience of working in the field of water quality control. The qualification is equally suitable for new entrants to the sector seeking to begin a career in legionella risk assessment.

Learners do not need any prior qualifications, knowledge or experience before starting the qualification. This qualification can be taken as preparation for employment as well as professional development for those interested in specialising in this area.

### 2.3 Qualification Number

ABBE Level 3 Award in Legionella Risk Assessment for Simple Domestic Style Water Systems:  
601/8276/3

### 2.4 Qualification Level

This qualification has been listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at: Level 3



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## 2.5 Total Qualification Time

This qualification is allocated Total Qualification Time (TQT) this includes Guided Learning (GL) expressed in hours, which indicates the number of hours of supervised or directed study time and assessment. Credit has also be allocated to this qualification.

- The Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification is: 84
- Guided Learning (GL) for this qualification is: 10
- Credit Value: 8 credits

## 2.6 Progression

This qualification has been designed to encourage participation in education and training in other related areas by:

- enabling current practitioners in energy assessment activities to expand their portfolio of services offered to their customers by incorporating legionella risk assessment and advice services
- attracting current residential surveyors and Home Inspectors by the opportunities presented through their offering legionella risk assessment and advice services
- encouraging individuals with water trades backgrounds to develop knowledge and understanding and to enhance development and promotion prospects
- enabling existing individuals who work, or wish to work, in this field to gain a recognised qualification and enhance their depth and breadth of knowledge

## 2.7 Age ranges

Pre 16	No
16-18	No
18+	Yes
19+	Yes

## 2.8 Structure of the Qualification

To achieve the ABBE Level 3 Award in Legionella Risk Assessment for Simple Domestic Style Water Systems learners must achieve the four mandatory units.

Mandatory Units			
URN	Unit Name	Credit Value	Level
D/507/9941	Understand the legislation, guidance and techniques associated with reducing the risks of infection from legionella bacteria in simple hot and cold water systems and spa pools	2	3
K/507/9943	Prepare to carry out legionella risk assessments of simple domestic style water systems	2	3
M/507/9944	Conduct legionella risk assessments in a safe, effective and professional manner	2	3
T/507/9945	Carry out legionella risk assessments of simple hot and cold water systems and spa pools	2	3



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## **2.9 Barred Units**

Units with the same title at different levels or units with the same content cannot be combined in the same qualification.

## **2.10 Language**

ABBE qualifications and assessment materials will be provided through the medium of English.

## **2.11 Grading**

This qualification is: Pass/Fail

## **2.12 Pre-course Procedures**

This qualification is available to anyone who is capable of reaching the required standards. They have been developed free from any barriers that unfairly restrict access or progression thereby promoting equal opportunities.

There are no pre-entry requirements for this qualification.

## **2.13 Qualification Review Boards**

Qualification Review Boards (QRBs) are set up for each qualification. The Boards are drawn from employers, centres, Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) and others with a vested interest in the sector in which the qualification is used. The purpose of the QRB is to ensure that the content of the qualification and the proposed assessment methodology are fit for purpose and are appropriate to meet the requirements of the sector.

QRBs are ongoing and will be scheduled for specific points within the qualification lifetime; at the notional mid-point and again towards the review date of the qualification. During this process, the QRB will consider any feedback received on the performance of the qualification and will consider if the content, structure, purpose and assessment methodology remain appropriate to the needs of the sector. This will help to improve both our qualification and the specification.



### 3. Qualification Unit(s)

#### Unit 1: Understand the legislation, guidance and techniques associated with reducing the risks of infection from legionella bacteria in simple hot and cold water systems and spa pools

Unit Reference Number: D/507/9941

Level: 3

Credit: 2

#### Unit Summary

To enable the learner to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the legionella bacteria and the threat it poses to individual and public health. Learners will gain an understanding of legislation in relation to the management of the legionella bacteria and appropriate control measures for simple hot and cold domestic style water systems and spa pools.

#### Assessment Guidance

This unit can be assessed using the following method(s):

- Portfolio of evidence

<b>Learning Outcome The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment Criterion The learner can:</b>
1. Understand the risks associated with legionella bacteria and legionellosis	1.1 State the optimum conditions required for legionella bacteria to multiply within water systems
	1.2 Describe the methods of transmission and infection of legionella bacteria
	1.3 Identify the factors that affect an individual's susceptibility to legionellosis
	1.4 Describe the symptoms of legionellosis
2. Understand how legislation and codes of practice can support the management of legionella bacteria	2.1 Identify legislation and codes of practice relating to the management of legionella bacteria
	2.2 Describe the relationship between health and safety legislation, legionella guidance and relevant codes of practice
	2.3 Identify the consequences for non-compliance with legislation and codes of practice
	2.4 Explain the key roles and responsibilities associated with the management of legionella bacteria
	2.5 Describe the requirements of British Standards relating to legionella risk assessments



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3. Understand how to minimise the risks of legionella bacteria	3.1 Explain the importance of a written scheme
	3.2 Identify the requirements of a written scheme
	3.3 Explain how a written scheme should be implemented
	3.4 Explain the importance of routine reviews of a written scheme
	3.5 Evaluate the effect legionella bacteria replication has on a legionella written scheme
	3.6 Explain the importance of record keeping
	3.7 Explain the importance of training and assessment of nominated individuals
4. Understand the problems associated with simple domestic style water systems and spa pools	4.1 Differentiate between the components installed in typical hot and cold water systems and spa pools
	4.2 Identify the hazards caused by hot and cold water system configurations and spa pools
	4.3 Explain the problems associated with scale formation in simple hot and cold water systems and spa pools
	4.4 Explain the problems associated with corrosion in domestic hot and cold water systems and spa pools
	4.5 Explain the problems associated with microbiological growth in domestic hot and cold water systems and spa pools
	4.6 Explain the importance of temperature in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools
5. Know how to carry out the treatment of simple domestic style water systems and spa pools	5.1 Describe the reasons for the use of chemical treatments in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools
	5.2 Explain the importance of the use of physical treatments in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools
	5.3 Describe the use of temperature as a method of control in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools
	5.4 Describe control measures to identify and reduce the risk of infection for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• simple hot and cold water systems and spa pools</li> <li>• the movement of water</li> <li>• chemical contact with water</li> </ul>
6. Know how to monitor water conditions in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools	6.1 Explain the reasons for monitoring temperature and pH in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools
	6.2 Describe the test equipment required to monitor water temperature and pH in simple domestic style water systems and spa pools
	6.3 Explain how sampling equipment is used to test simple domestic style water systems and spa pools



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## Unit 2: Prepare to carry out legionella risk assessments of simple domestic style water systems

Unit Reference Number: K/507/9943

Level: 3

Credit: 2

### Unit Summary

To enable the learner to develop the skills required when preparing to undertake legionella risk assessments. They will learn the administration required before a risk assessment is undertaken and will go on to determine the required methods and equipment for undertaking risk assessments in water systems of typical of those in domestic style buildings.

### Assessment Guidance

This unit can be assessed using the following method(s):

- Portfolio of evidence

<b>Learning Outcome The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment Criterion The learner can:</b>
1. Be able to agree and confirm instructions with a client to undertake legionella risk assessments	1.1 Obtain advance information from clients to draw up and agree objectives for legionella risk assessments
	1.2 Explain to clients the terms and conditions under which legionella risk assessments will be carried out
	1.3 Agree a mutually convenient time with the client to carry out the risk assessment
	1.4 Confirm access and security arrangements with clients
	1.5 Explain to clients the circumstances that could prevent a legionella risk assessment from taking place
	1.6 Offer a client alternative arrangements should it not be possible to carry out a legionella risk assessment
2. Be able to prepare for a legionella risk assessment of a simple water system typical of those in domestic style buildings	2.1 Draw up a method statement for the legionella risk assessment
	2.2 Prepare and check the risk assessment and survey equipment requirements based on the method statement



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### Unit 3: Conduct legionella risk assessments in a safe, effective and professional manner

Unit Reference Number: M/507/9944

Level: 3

Credit: 2

#### Unit Summary

To enable the learner to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to contribute to the health, safety and security of the workplace, develop effective working relationships with others, and conduct legionella risk assessments of simple water systems with domestic style characteristics in a professional and ethical manner, complying with organisational and legal requirements at all times.

#### Assessment Guidance

This unit can be assessed using the following method(s):

- Portfolio of evidence

<b>Learning Outcome The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment Criterion The learner can:</b>
1. Understand organisational and legal requirements in relation to legionella risk assessment at all times	1.1 Explain legal requirements and responsibilities for health, safety and security in the workplace
	1.2 Carry out work in accordance with the relevant legal requirements, legislation and advisory and mandatory codes of practice
	1.3 Identify health, safety and security risks which may exist in different workplace locations
	1.4 Explain procedures for different types of emergency
	1.5 Explain the extent and limits of own competence and the importance of not working beyond them
2. Be able to maintain health, safety and security at work	2.1 Carry out work in accordance with relevant, legislation and advisory and mandatory codes of practice
	2.2 Take action to mitigate health, safety and security risks
	2.3 Ensure personal conduct does not endanger the health, safety and security of self and other people
	2.4 Take action to ensure the protection of client's property and buildings
	2.5 Adhere to workplace policies and suppliers' or manufacturers' instructions for the safe use of equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), materials and products



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	2.6 Carry out work in accordance with the auditing and monitoring requirements of the relevant accreditation or certification organisation(s)
	2.7 Record customer contact information in accordance with organisational and legal requirements such as the Data Protection legislation
3. Be able to develop and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues, professionals, clients and others	3.1 Develop and maintain productive working relationships with others
	3.2 Request information from colleagues, professionals, clients and others in a polite, clear and professional manner
	3.3 Identify further sources of information, help and clarification
	3.4 Deal promptly with enquiries from colleagues, professionals, clients and others and seek clarification where necessary
	3.5 Handle enquiries that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are outside own authority</li> <li>• are beyond own area of knowledge or expertise</li> <li>• involve confidential information</li> </ul>
	3.6 Handle and resolve disputes and/or differences of opinion
	3.7 Adhere to the formal complaints procedure when dealing with a complaint
4. Be able to conduct legionella risk assessments	4.1 Record all evidence supporting the assumptions and decisions made during the assessment
	4.2 Demonstrate effective management of work activities and personal and professional development
	4.3 Explain the extent and limits of own competence and the importance of not working beyond them
	4.4 Respond appropriately to pressure from any person/s which may affect own judgement



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## Unit 4: Carry out legionella risk assessments of simple hot and cold water systems and spa pools

Unit Reference Number: T/507/9945

Level: 3

Credit: 2

### Unit Summary

To enable the learner to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for legionella risk assessments of simple water systems typical of those in domestic style buildings.

### Assessment Guidance

This unit can be assessed using the following method(s):

- Portfolio of evidence

<b>Learning Outcome The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment Criterion The learner can:</b>
1. Know how to carry out on-site review of risks and matters affecting legionella risk assessments	1.1 Define the scope of the legionella risk assessment
	1.2 Identify the systems to be risk assessed
	1.3 Identify the resources required to undertake the risk assessment
	1.4 Carry out Legionella hazard identification appropriate to the property being assessed and in line with legionella guidance
	1.5 Assess limitations of own competence
	1.6 Assess the impact of materials and components of the system on risk
	1.7 Review the impact of system design and operation on risk
2. Be able to use legionella risk assessment documentation and management procedures	2.1 Identify the responsible person and nominated deputies for legionella control
	2.2 Produce outline schematic diagrams of the observable water system in the property
	2.3 Review any maintenance, monitoring and inspection records
	2.4 Review and evaluate any previous legionella risk assessments
3. Be able to undertake legionella risk assessments	3.1 Carry out a risk assessment of the hazards identified in accordance with health and safety legislation, legionella guidance and relevant codes of practice collecting photographic evidence as required
	3.2 Assess the level of risk for each hazard, identifying any that cannot be eliminated



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	3.3 Identify the control measures that can be applied to the water system involved
	3.4 Carry out physical condition checks on the relevant systems
	3.5 Deal with matters of immediate concern in accordance with organisational procedure
4. Be able to report on legionella risk assessments	4.1 Evaluate risk of exposure to legionella bacteria
	4.2 Recommend changes to policies and practices resulting from the risk assessment
	4.6 Recommend specific corrective actions in accordance with organisational procedures
	4.4 Recommend specific control measures in accordance with organisational procedures
	4.5 Advise on procedures and processes needed to implement the control measures and record them, including actions and recommended completion dates
	4.6 Report findings of the risk assessment with actions identified



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