

**Summary of Actions Undertaken to
Monitor Existing Cooling Towers for Air-conditioning**

- In the past two years, Buildings Department (BD) conducted regular large scale clearance operations to remove abandoned and/or dilapidated water cooling towers in five industrial districts. 2,500 abandoned water cooling towers and their supports were removed or relocated. To safeguard public safety, BD will launch similar operations on a regular basis. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and Water Supplies Department (WSD) would also assist in reporting to BD any suspected cases of unsafe structures supporting cooling towers observed during the course of discharging their normal duties.
- EMSD has compiled a database of the 12,000 (approximately) existing cooling towers from the perspective of prevention of Legionnaires' Disease (LD). As the database also contains information on the observed maintenance conditions of those cooling towers, EMSD has shared it with BD for reference in selecting buildings for regular large scale clearance operations to remove abandoned and/or dilapidated water cooling towers.
- EMSD has completed the review on the Code of Practice for the Prevention of LD, which provides guidelines to cooling towers' owners and operators for the prevention of LD. There will be public relation activities to promote the use of the Code of Practice. EMSD will send it together with an information leaflet to the concerned professional bodies as well as industry and contractors' associations including The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, the Building Owners Association, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, and the Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Association. The information leaflet is available at District Offices and the Code of Practice is available at the EMSD Homepage.
- EMSD will operate a voluntary registration scheme for cooling towers for LD, and will tender advice and assistance to the cooling tower owners and operators, when necessary. EMSD will try hard to identify the owners/operators of existing cooling towers, where this is not already available, particularly those which appear to be not properly maintained EMSD will arrange a second round mailing of the Code of Practice to them. This will be followed by stepping up site checks and water sampling in the cooling towers in 2001.