



Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd.

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Sent by email to all Head of Departments

Notification to all Microbiology Departments applying to or accredited by CPA

A recent review of the application database by CPA has identified a small number of microbiology departments who have declared Legionella testing of waters and other environmental samples as part of their test repertoire. Departments should be aware that CPA accreditation can only apply to clinical samples from patients and not to any other type of sample. Laboratories may undertake a range of environmental samples for their host organisation e.g. drinking water samples, hydrotherapy pool samples, washer-disinfector wash water samples, theatre air test samples and one would expect this work is undertaken to the same high standards as the rest of the laboratory repertoire. Departments can continue to undertake such work but results must **NOT** include the CPA logo on the report and should make a suitable disclaimer/comment on the report. If laboratories wish to accredit this work they must apply for UKAS accreditation separately. CPA is aware of at least one instance where environmental samples have been reported on paperwork bearing the CPA logo which has led to confusion in terms of the professional status of the report.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the CPA office by telephone on 020 8917 8400 (asking for CPA on the voice recognition system) or by email at office@cpa-uk.co.uk