

Sector Facilitair Bedrijf

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Holland Watertechnology BV
T.a.v. de heer L.C. de Zeeuw
Postbus 189
3940 AD DOORN

Subject: the use of the BIFIPRO® system in the "Tweestedenziekenhuis" hospital

Dear Mr. De Zeeuw,

As from the beginning of 2008 two of your BIFIPRO® systems are in use on two locations of our hospital in Waalwijk and Tilburg. Until then we were confronted with legionella contaminations in our water management.

These contaminations concerned both harmful (type 1) and harmless bacteria and thus endangered public health directly. These high-risk problems were a continuous and precarious issue that needed our undivided attention. Only after a very extensive study concerning all available systems, we decided that the use of copper and silver ions seemed to be the most robust and reliable solution for the matter. Of course the applicable legislation, issued by V.R.O.M. (the Dutch Ministry for public health, town and country planning and environmental affairs), was obeyed by both our locations.

Because of the lack of broad experience with the use of copper and silver ions at the time, a team of experts, with a doctor-microbiologist among them, examined broadly the practise of copper and silver ionisation regarding the use in drinking water. Natural we emphasized the risk of application of the method in our hospitals (pharmaceutical production, laboratory, drinking water etcetera). On top of this we gave specific attention to possible effects of the method on waste and surface water. The past year of full operation of the BIFIPRO® system, using for example water analyses, no effect occurred.

During our examination we did not find any fact hampering the application of copper and silver ionisation. This, as well as the comparison with competitive systems (ultra filtration, UV light, anodic oxidation and other systems using copper and silver) made us ultimately choosing the BIFIPRO® system. This choice was also supported by your extensive list of references, the demonstration of your elaborate service system and most of all the convincing price quality balance.

Already after a few months of operation the copper and silver ions proved to be effective: we did not experience any legionella contamination since start up. Today we can conclude having made the right choice at the time. Next to any contamination staying away definitely, every day we experience an increase in peace of mind and substantial savings on related cost.

When one sets off the cost of intervention at the time of (supposed) legionella contaminations we experienced in the past, against the cost of purchase and maintenance of your system, a cost recovery time of less than a few years applies!

Together with the application of your equipment came very strict rules of control. Both contributed positively to legionella free water systems in our hospitals in Waalwijk and in Tilburg at the same time. As a team we share the pride after the lack of any omission in our programme, as determined during a profound investigation by a waterworks inspector in March 2009!

In conclusion we wholeheartedly want to recommend your system as well as you organisation to our fellow facility managers. We do also trust that a final and suitable legislation regarding the application of your system is to be expected on short notice. On your first request we will be happy to fully share our experience with both facilitating co-workers and policymakers.

Trusting to have you informed sufficiently and looking forward to the continuation of our pleasant corporation, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

L.E.A. Timmermans,
Facility Manager,
TweeSteden Ziekenhuis