

Swiftclean says industry cannot afford to ignore Bulmers warning

Legionnaires' disease is back in the spotlight following the prosecution of cider maker HP Bulmer and its specialist maintenance contractor Nalco. Both organisations were hit with massive £300,000 fines plus £50,000 in legal costs for breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act. The prosecution came as a result of a Legionnaires' outbreak at Bulmer's factory in Hereford five years ago that left two people dead and over 20 others seriously ill.

"It is a sad fact of life that it often takes a catastrophic event to provoke the required reaction," said Gary Nicholls, managing director of building services hygiene contractor Swiftclean. "Quite apart from the tragic loss of life in this case, the size of the fines should also motivate all building owners and operators to carry out full risk assessments and put their hygiene programmes in place."

For more information about legionella prevention and control visit www.swiftclean.co.uk

