**Test Results and Suggestion Action Steps**

Use the following guidelines to assess the effectiveness of water system maintenance. These guidelines are based on limited data and are subject to change. They are intended to apply only to water systems being used by healthy individuals and are not necessarily protective for persons who are immunocompromised.

The levels requiring action vary for the source of exposure based on the assumption that some routes or exposure result in a greater dose to the lung. For this reason, humidifiers and similar devices such as misters and evaporative condensers which produce an aerosol mist that can be directly inhaled should be controlled to lower levels. Remember that these numbers are only guidelines, and the goal is zero detectable *Legionella* in a water source. Levels of *Legionella* equal to or greater than the values in the table constitute a need for action, as described below.

**Action Level 1**:  Prompt cleaning and/or biocide treatment of the system.

**Action Level 2**:  Immediate cleaning and/or biocide treatment. Take prompt steps to prevent employee exposure.

| **Table III:7-1. COLONY FORMING UNITS (CFU) OF *LEGIONELLA* PER MILLILITER** |
| --- |
| **Action** | **Cooling tower** | **Domestic water** | **Humidifier** |
| 1 | 100 | 10 | 1 |
| 2 | 1,000 | 100 | 10 |