

Ingersoll Support Services Inc.

Policy: Water Temperature

Policy # QAM 35

Section: Quality Assurance

Approved by the Board of Directors: Sept. 22 2011

Procedure Revision: September 12 2016

Reviewed and Effective: September 12 2017

Ministry requirement –

QAM IV.25

Ingersoll Support Services will ensure safe and healthy environments for the people we support with respect to safe and healthy water temperature. This will be done by:

1. *Systematic instruction;*
2. *Mechanical tempering valve regulators;*
3. *Routine testing and documentation;*
4. *Providing close personal support*

Procedure:

Safe water temperature management will be ensured by:

Instruction

1. Support staff will teach persons we support to participate in safe water temperature management as a daily practice and as a life skill. Running water will be tested at the shower, tap or tub faucet by: setting the correct running water temperature by touch – starting from cold to hot, maintaining an ongoing contact by hand throughout a physically assisted shower to ensure that the temperature does not change. Standing submersible water will then be tested again by: stirring standing water by hand in the tub and submerging your elbow or forearm prior to the person entering the tub. The standing tub water should be 1-2 degrees higher than body temperature.

Mechanical Regulators

2. Tempering valve regulators will be installed and maintained in agency properties. These will be designed to heat water to a sufficient level to meet health requirements, while delivering water at a temperature not to exceed 49°C, as recommended by the Oxford County Health Unit.

Routine testing and Documentation

3. Water temperature testing and documentation will be carried out on a weekly basis in each support location. Water temperature verification will be documented on the Ingersoll Support Services Wellness House Checklist Form, which includes: date of testing, location of testing and the temperature recorded. Water will be tested in both the bathroom and the kitchen. Water will be tested by the following method:

- a. Run hot water for two minutes
- b. After two minutes, allow the water to flow into a glass cup
- c. With the hot water still running, place the thermometer into the cup
- d. Wait until the temperature has stopped climbing. This is the temperature to record

Water tested which measures or exceeds 49°C must be reported immediately to the Team Supervisor or Manager.

Close Personal Support

4. Support staff persons are responsible to ensure safe water temperature directly or by supporting the person to do so. This is true for situations at home or at incidental locations where bathing is staff supported.