

IEQ NEWS



We care about indoor air

Fall 2006

Inaugural Issue

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Upcoming Events:

CPHA Annual Meeting - October 27,
Rocky Hill, CT

APHA Annual Meeting - November
4-8, Boston, MA

2006 National Center for
Environmental Health Conference:
*Advancing Environmental Public
Health: Science, Practice, New
Frontiers* - December 4-6, Atlanta,
GA.

Environmental and Occupational Health
Assessment Program
Indoor Air Quality Unit

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We are pleased to announce that CT DPH has formed a unit dedicated to indoor environmental quality. The Indoor Environmental Quality Unit (IEQ) will provide consultation, technical assistance, education, and training to professionals and the public about environmental conditions that can lead to poor indoor environmental quality and impact the health of those who live and/or work in Connecticut.

People spend most of their time indoors. The indoor environment, and in particular, indoor air, can be many times more polluted than the outdoor environment and can contribute to health problems such as asthma exacerbations, respiratory illnesses, and eye, throat, and nose irritations. The IEQ unit will be looking for ways to educate professionals and the public about how to improve the indoor environment in homes, schools, and workplaces. Some of the topics that will be addressed are mold and moisture, carbon monoxide, household chemicals, and ozone generators. The unit also coordinates and manages the EPA *Tools for Schools* Program.

IEQ staff are Marian Heyman, IEQ Unit Coordinator, and Joan Simpson, Health Educator. Kenny Foscue coordinates the *Tools for Schools* Program. The IEQ Unit contact number is 860-509-7742.

As part of efforts to inform local health departments and the public regarding issues related to indoor environmental quality, we will be publishing *IEQ NEWS* periodically. Each issue will highlight one IEQ topic. This issue highlights IEQ-related state legislation. If you have IEQ issues that you would like addressed in this forum, please let us know.

Suzanne Blancaflor

Chief Environmental Health Section

IEQ vs. IAQ

Traditionally the indoor environment has been termed, IAQ or indoor air quality. However, the indoor environment is more than just air contamination. It encompasses factors such as ergonomics, lighting, settled dust, and acoustics. Therefore, the terminology is changing from IAQ to IEQ to more accurately describe the scope of the problem. The terms are often used interchangeably.



Legislative Updates

Green Cleaning

Executive Order No. 14, issued on 4/17/06, states that “all state agencies in the executive branch shall, wherever feasible, in a manner that is financially feasible, commercially reasonable and practicable, immediately transition to environmentally and health-friendly cleaning and/or sanitizing products.” DPH is working with DAS and DEP to establish a policy for the use of environmentally preferable cleaning and sanitizing products. Municipal governments, political subdivisions and school districts are encouraged to comply with the provisions of this Executive Order. Information on environmentally preferable products (EPP) products can be found at: <http://www.das.state.ct.us/busopp.asp> or at www.greenseal.org/certproducts.html.

Carbon Monoxide

Public Act No. 05-161, AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

states that as of October 1, 2005, CO detectors are required in **new** residential buildings designed for 1 or 2 family occupancy or in any residence where alterations or additions requiring a permit occur. The full text of the law can be found at <http://www.cga.gov>. The regulations written to provide specific details of the requirements can be found in the 2005 state building code, section R313.3, p. 103 on the web at <http://www.ct.gov/dps/cwp> (search: building code). Local building officials are responsible for enforcement.

Mold Remediation

Public Act No. 06-195, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES states that DPH shall publish guidelines establishing mold abatement protocol that include acceptable methods for performing mold remediation or abatement work. These shall be guidelines and NOT regulations. DPH has written these guidelines for professional mold abatement contractors. They have been forwarded to the legislature.



Tools for Schools (TfS)

As of 10/01/06, 625 schools in 100 school districts have been trained. This translates into 2900 school staff, parents and teachers who have been informed regarding IAQ in schools. A map of the towns currently conducting TfS can be found at http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/EOHA/tfs_map.

2006 trainings are being scheduled now. Call Kenny Foscue at 860-509-7742 for more information

A reminder that the IAQ school law states that all school districts must have a program in place that addresses indoor air in schools by January 2008. The TfS program fulfills that requirement. The text of the law, P.A. 03-220, can be found at: <http://www.cga.gov>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are there any regulations regarding temperatures in buildings?



A: The only temperature regulations are CT General Statute (CGS) Sec. 19a-109, which states that “When any building or part thereof is occupied as a home or place of residence or as an office or a place of business.... a temperature of less than sixty-five degrees Fahrenheit in such building or part thereof shall, for the purpose of this section, be deemed injurious to the health of the occupants...”.

There are no regulations pertaining to elevated building temperatures.

Helpful Web Links

[Http://www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq): **Environmental Protection Agency.** Information on a broad range of indoor air topics including green buildings, mold, asthma, and schools.

[Http://www.iaqa.org](http://www.iaqa.org): **Indoor Air Quality Association.** Information to find an IEQ professional, resources, consumer information, and IEQ courses.

