Weekly Safety Tip

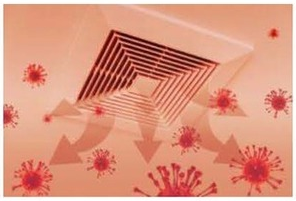
Winter Indoor Air Quality

SAFETY TIPS

Winter Indoor Air Quality

Safety Council OF NORTHWEST OHIO

IAQ includes air quality, damp conditions, and lighting



Indoor Air and Preparing for Winter Respiratory Disease Season

Let's examine how to prepare for the upcoming winter respiratory disease season.

There are no federal standards for infectious diseases in the workplace.

The burdens of a severe respiratory disease season shows up in lower productivity and higher health insurance claims. So, ***could improved ventilation and air filtration ease the burden of respiratory diseases?***

The HVAC industry have long been interested in indoor air quality, with its primary concerns focused on *occupant comfort* and *system efficiency*.

At any time of the year, you can face risks from *Legionella*, the bacterium that causes Legionnaires' disease, a serious and potentially fatal lung infection, and Pontiac fever, a less serious infection with milder symptoms similar to seasonal flu.

Preventing Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac fever outbreaks requires you to regularly perform risk assessments of your buildings' systems.

- Evaluating a water system's susceptibility to *Legionella* growth and amplification,
- Prioritizing corrective actions for or improvements to systems found to be at high risk, *and*
- Validating the effectiveness of control measures.

While severe influenza outbreaks occasionally lead to concerns about indoor air quality and disease transmission, the COVID-19 pandemic raised those concerns to new levels.

The main risk posed was by the aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2, that h causes COVID-19, which called for a layered approach to worker safety and health that included effective ventilation and air filtration and appropriate respiratory protection.

At that time it was recommended that building owners begin taking four steps to address SARS-CoV-2 infection risks in schools and workplaces: 1) verifying that building systems are performing as designed; 2) increasing outdoor air ventilation; 3) upgrading air filtration; and 4) deploying portable air cleaners as needed.

Last year, the CDC updated its "Ventilation in Buildings" guidelines, encouraging employers and building owners to aim for **five or more air changes per hour** of clean air to help reduce the number of bacteria and viruses in the air.

In addition to recommending five or more air changes per hour, the CDC recommended **using Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)-13 filters** or better and performing post-occupancy flushing of building air. The updated guidelines also include a discussion on whole-room ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI), also called "Far UV."

Weekly Safety Share

Updated Hand Protection Standard

SAFETY & HEALTH SHARE

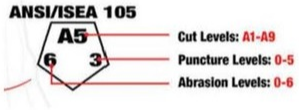
ISEA Announces Updated Hand Protection Standard: ANSI/ISEA 105-2024, Which Is Now Available

ANSI/ISEA 105-2024 - American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification - provides a comprehensive classification system for hand and arm protection, including gloves and sleeves, based on performance criteria essential for workplace safety. This update to the standard was undertaken to better ensure consistency and predictability in the selection of personal protective equipment (PPE), to make it easier to choose the right protection for specific hazards.

As a result, ***the update better provides critical guidance on performance levels, testing, and classifications for gloves designed to protect against workplace hazards like cuts, punctures, abrasions, and chemical exposure.***

The updated standard features:

- New marking requirements to help users quickly identify the right gloves for their needs
- Specific language for demonstrating conformity to the claimed classifications
- Updates to conductive heat resistance classifications and improved abrasion testing requirements



First, let's being with a reminder that OSHA's PPE standard 29 CFR 1910.138 governs "***hand protection***" and specifies the selection criteria to be used when providing hand protection to ensure employers provide their workers with PPE that is relevant to their work.

Hand protection can consist of protective gloves, arm coverings or elbow -length gloves, or finger guards.

Protective gloves can be fabric or coated fabric; leather, canvas, or metal mesh; chemical-resistant material; or insulated rubber.

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