SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH

Chairman:
Paolo CARRER – Dpt Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, University of Milan, Italy
paolo.carrer@unimi.it

Secretary:
Peder WOLKOFF – National Center for Working Environment, Copenhagen, Denmark
pwo@nrcwe.dk

Business Meeting
ICOH CONFERENCE 2018 - Dublin
May 1 (Tue) 17.30-18.30 – Liffey Meeting Room 3A
WEBSITE at: http://www.dibic.unimi.it/ecm/home/rapporti-internazionali/icoh

ICOH SC IAQ COmmitee: INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH

International Commission on Occupational Health
Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission

Chair: Prof. Paolo CARRIER, Occupational Health, University of Milan (Italy) - paolo.carrier@unimi.it

Secretary: Peter WOLKOFF, National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Copenhagen (Denmark) - pwo@nrcwe.dk

The occupational health services are increasingly requested in non-industrial building sector (offices, banks, schools, etc.). Workers employed in such environments account for the major part of the labour force in many countries. Effects on health, well-being, and productivity have been increasingly reported during the last decades. The indoor air quality (IAQ) in non-industrial buildings is an issue of growing concern and, synergies with psychosocial stress may potentially be important. IAQ in office buildings is an issue of increasing interest also because it deals with workers providing services of the highest relevance for the companies/communities. The type office could play a role in the prevalence of symptoms and sickness absence. The concern regarding productivity is not only related to absenteeism and associated diseases due to the work environment (IAQ), but it may also result from less comfortable working conditions.
HOT Topic

INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH Consensus Document

Role of occupational health services in the assessment and management of indoor air quality problems in offices

Paolo Carrer
Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences
"L. Sacco", University of Milan, Italy
e-mail: paolo.carrer@unimi.it

Peder Wolkoff
National Research Centre for the Working Environment,
Copenhagen, Denmark
e-mail: pwo@nrcwe.dk

Abstract
The indoor air quality (IAQ) and its impact on health, comfort, and work-performance is an issue of increasing concern in office workers that account for the major part of the labour force in non-industrial buildings in many countries.

Experts of the Scientific Committee on Indoor Air Quality and Health of the ICOH have discussed the assessment and management of IAQ problems and proposed a stepwise approach to be conducted by a multidisciplinary team. It is recommended to integrate the building assessment, inspection by walk-through of the company workplace, questionnaire survey, and environmental measurements, in that order. Questionnaire should cover questions about perceived IAQ, symptoms and psychosocial working aspects. The outcome can be used for mapping the perceived IAQ and to prioritize the order in which the problems should be dealt with. Individual health surveillance in relation to IAQ is proposed only when periodical health surveillance is already performed for other risks (e.g. Video Display Units) or when specific clinical examination of workers
Assessment of Indoor Air Quality Problems in Office-Like Environments: Role of Occupational Health Services

Paolo Carrer and Peder Wolkoff

1 Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences “L. Sacco”, University of Milan, 20157 Milan, Italy; paolo.carrer@unimi.it
2 National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Lersø Parkallé 105, 2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
* Correspondence: pwo@nrcwe.dk; Tel.: +45-39-165272

Received: 19 March 2018; Accepted: 9 April 2018; Published: 12 April 2018

Abstract: There is an increasing concern about indoor air quality (IAQ) and its impact on health, comfort, and work-performance in office-like environments and their workers, which account for most of the labor force. The Scientific Committee on Indoor Air Quality and Health of the ICOH (Int. Comm. Occup. Health) has discussed the assessment and management of IAQ problems and proposed a stepwise approach to be conducted by a multidisciplinary team. It is recommended to integrate the building assessment, inspection by walk-through of the office workplace, questionnaire survey, and environmental measurements, in that order. The survey should cover perceived IAQ, symptoms, and psychosocial working aspects. The outcome can be used for mapping the IAQ and to prioritize the order in which problems should be dealt with. Individual health surveillance in relation to IAQ is proposed only when periodical health surveillance is already performed for other risks (e.g., video display units) or when specific clinical examination of workers is required due to the occurrence of diseases that may be linked to IAQ (e.g., Legionnaire’s disease), recurrent inflammation, infections of eyes, respiratory airway effects, and sensorial disturbances. Environmental and personal risk factors should also be compiled and assessed. Workplace health promotion should include programs for smoking cessation and stress and IAQ management.

Keywords: comfort; indoor air quality; management; offices; sickness; symptoms


http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/15/4/741
Indoor Air Quality in Modern Office Buildings

Paolo CARRER: *Indoor air quality and health effects in European modern office buildings: main results from the OFFICAIR study*

Peder WOLKOFF: *Indoor air humidity and health – an overview*

Markku SAINIO: *Indoor Air Related Environmental Intolerance*

Paolo CARRER: *Role of occupational health services in the assessment and management of indoor air quality problems in offices*