

Guidance on Mold Health Concerns for Workers

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Affected Workers

- Remedial Workers
- Maintenance/Building Engineers
- Agricultural Workers
- Office Workers
- Inspectors

Potential Health Impacts

- Hypersensitivity Diseases
- Toxic Effects
 - Mycotoxins: Produced by many molds
 - Glucans: Cell walls
- Infectious agents
 - Aspergillosis
 - Histoplasmosis
- Impacts from the Application of Biocides

Remediation

- **Goals of Remediation:**
 - **Remove or Clean contaminated material**
 - **Contain contaminants to work area**
 - **Protect workers from exposure**
- **Always Correct cause of Water Accumulation**

Mold Remediation Guidance

- 1993 NYC DOH - Guidelines on Stachybotrys
- 1995 Health Canada - Guide to Recognition and Management
- 1999 ACGIH - Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control
- 2000 NYC DOH - Guidelines on Fungi

More Mold Remediation Guidance

- 2001 US EPA - Guidelines on Fungi
- 2003 OSHA - Advisory
- 2003 IICRC S520 - Mold Remediation
- 200? ASSE - Mold and Worker Health
- 200? ACGIH - Guidance on Fungi
- ????? NYC DOHMH

Worker Exposure and Protection

- Task Exposure Levels and Effects not well defined
- No Clinical Test to determine time of exposure
- Size of Contaminated Area determines Level of Containment
- PPE – Based Primarily on Level of Containment
- Other Factors
 - Work Procedures (e.g. sanding, cutting, demo)
 - Amount of Mold on Surfaces

Engineering Controls

- Reduce Dust
 - Wet/damp Cleaning or Misting
 - HEPA Vacuum
 - Cover materials before removal
- Local Exhaust Ventilation
- Increase Containment Ventilation

Future Plans for NYC Guidance

- Considering Overall Update and focus on:
 - Worker Safety and Health
 - Remediation Techniques – improvements, effectiveness
 - ‘Clearance Sampling’ Issues
- Clarify and Expand
 - Assessment of Hidden Mold
 - Biocide Uses – Hospitals, black/gray water
 - Training and Certification

Questions

- NYC DOHMH – Environmental and Occupational Disease Epidemiology Program
(212) 788-4290
- Mold Information on NYC DOHMH
Home Page: www.nyc.gov/health
- EPA Mold Guide:
www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/molds.html

