

CBS Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs

CBS Corporation, 20 Stanwix Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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Indoor Air Quality

Indoor air quality (IAQ) refers to the air quality within a building, office, or studio as it relates to the health and comfort of building occupants. While there are no specific Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations addressing IAQ, OSHA could become involved if an employee makes an inquiry requesting their assistance in investigating a complaint.

The main focus in addressing IAQ issues is to identify the source(s) of the complaint. Leaky roofs, pipes, and moisture-damaged materials can cause mold growth. When left untreated or unabated, these situations are the most common cause of an IAQ complaint. If water intrusion does occur, the source of the leak should be addressed as soon as possible and any damaged materials should be discarded or dried out within 24-48 hours to prevent mold spore growth.

A facility's ventilation system can distribute contaminants throughout the building. Cooling coils and condensation drop pans should be carefully checked for excessive water accumulation. Air-conditioning and heating filters and ductwork must be inspected and kept clean.

Approximately 50% of all IAQ complaints can be attributed to insufficient air circulation. Air quality concerns may be caused by a number of factors, such as:

- Ventilation system deficiencies
- Mold
- Off-gassing of new materials resulting in chemical pollutants
- High and low humidity conditions

All IAQ complaints should be brought to the attention of the facility's Human Resources Department and building management so they can investigate the situation. A small complaint could become a major problem if not properly addressed. Individuals with allergies, asthma, or other respiratory conditions are usually more sensitive to IAQ. Complaints usually include:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Sinus condition
- Eyes, nose, or throat irritation
- Coughing
- Fatigue

Please contact Bill Wall (William.Wall@cbs.com) or 412-642-3580 with any questions or for additional information.

Using an Outside Consultant to Abate an IAQ Issue

If it is determined that an outside consultant is needed to perform a more comprehensive IAQ assessment, the following steps must be followed:

- Contact CBS Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs
- Notify the facilities and engineering personnel
- Evaluation reports made by outside consultants should be reviewed by management, the Law Department, and CBS Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs
- Any air sample data or other sample data that could have an impact on an affected employee must be shared with them under the OSHA medical and exposure record standard
- The chemical products used in any project must be included on the location's chemical inventory list and there must be a current safety data sheet per the OSHA Hazard Communications Standard