

CHAPTER 13 INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1. GENERAL

- a. The indoor environment is the result of the interactions of many factors - the building's location, area climate, construction methods and materials, renovations, occupant activities, and furnishings, to name a few. With the focus on energy conservation in the 1970s came the idea that "tighter is better." Buildings were constructed to prevent air infiltration, but there was usually no compensation for the loss of natural ventilation. Employees in office spaces began to complain of symptoms that they associated with being at work, beginning the era of evaluating occupational health issues associated with non-industrial work environments. Over the years, indoor environmental quality (IEQ) concerns have increasingly focused on biological contamination, especially molds and their metabolic by-products.
- b. This chapter is not meant to be an exhaustive or exclusive IEQ reference. It is a consolidation of current information, guidelines, and references, and provides general procedures to assist you with evaluations. Further, it gives you the resources to obtain more in-depth information if needed.

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