

Indiana IAQ

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About Indiana IAQ:

A new kind of newsletter that addresses the concerns of everyone interested in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Indiana. From the many questions and concerns received this newsletter and the ones to follow are developed from specific concerns. Information is collected and applied this way to the articles published.

Who can write in? Anyone! Contractors, mitigation technicians, restoration and remediation technicians, real estate professionals, banks, doctors, lawyers, insurance professionals, investors, anyone with an interest in IAQ.

To submit an idea for an article, write to:

IndianaIAQ@solutionsiec.com.

Inside this issue:

Cosmetic Testing Ensures Safety for the Public 2

Avoiding a Mold Contractor's Conflict of Interest Practices 3

Contact Information 4



Purdue University Announces New Degree Programs for Construction Professionals

Purdue University has announced a new degree program for construction professionals called the Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Management (DRR) program. The DRR program is designed to meet the needs of the emergency response industry by providing them with one of the only Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree programs for construction management professionals.



Management professionals, operating in the disaster restoration industry, can choose from six different degree specialties:

- Residential Construction Management
- Electrical Construction Management
- Mechanical Construction Management
- Demolition Construction Management
- Healthcare Construction Management
- Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction

This is an important development in the disaster restoration and emergency response industry. In the past many consumers questioned where to go to find profes-

sionals that knew what they were doing and were capable of taking care of their needs; while professionals coming into the industry struggled with the politics surrounding the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification's (IICRC) certificate of completion courses (www.iicrc.org).

As these programs begin at Purdue University, consumers will begin to see an influx of college graduates enter the disaster restoration and emergency response field; and, professionals aspiring to management positions in the disaster restoration and emergency response industry will find an accredited way to develop the necessary understandings and skills . . .

(read more on page 3)

Who is Mold's "Competent Person"?

This has been a question that many a consumer has struggled with when dealing with mold. Let's take a look at what the mold remediation industry says about what makes for a competent person in the mold industry today.

In the state of Indiana there

are no regulations outlining what a competent person is, so we have to look at the industry Standard of Care for guidance. (The current, legally binding Standard of Care for Mold Remediation is the American National Standards Institute / Institute of Inspection,

Cleaning and Restoration Certification's (IICRC) S520. For more information on this Standard, visit the IICRC at www.iicrc.org.)

The elementary response we get is that an "individual who is qualified by . . .

(read more on page 2)

Cosmetic Testing Ensures Safety for the Public

Drugs, medical devices and biologics are all regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before they go to market. Cosmetics, on the other hand, are not subject to FDA premarket approval. Cosmetic firms are responsible for substantiating the safety of their ingredients and products.

According to the FDA website, *“The two most important laws pertaining to cosmetics marketed in the United States are the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (FPLA). The FD&C Act prohibits the marketing of adulterated or mis-branded cosmetics in interstate commerce. Violations of the Act involving product composition—whether they result from ingredients, contaminants, processing, packaging, or shipping*

and handling—cause cosmetics to be adulterated and subject to regulatory action.” The FPLA requires ingredients to be declared.

These requirements address products made in the U.S. for domestic consumption and foreign made cosmetics imported for sale in the country. Over the past several years there have been numerous media reports of lead contamination in lipstick, fungal and bacterial infections, contaminated products, allergic reactions and potential harm from chemical components included in some cosmetics, such as formaldehyde.

EMSL Analytical, one of the nation’s largest consumer products and forensic science testing companies, provides a state-of-the-art laboratory for cosmetic manufacturers, distributors, retailers, regulators and the general public. *“EMSL Analytical can test raw materials, in-process samples and finished products for physical, chemical and*

bacterial quality control compliance,” reported Joe Frasca, Senior Vice President at EMSL Analytical. *“EMSL can also verify components for anti-microbial and preservative effectiveness. Our specialized staff of trained scientists can assist with any methods and product development needs that may exist.”*

For more information on cosmetic testing services provided by EMSL please call (800) 220-3675 or (800) 220-3675, visit www.ConsumerProductsTesting.com or email info@EMSL.com.

Author: EMSL Analytical, Inc. is a nationwide, full service, analytical testing laboratory network providing Asbestos, Mold, Indoor Air Quality, Microbiological, Environmental, Chemical, Forensic, Materials, Industrial Hygiene and Mechanical Testing services. Visit EMSL at www.emsl.com.

Who is Mold’s “Competent Person”?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

... “knowledge, skill, education, training, certification and experience to perform. . .” whatever the given task is needing completed. The complication with such a loose definition is that the Standard of Care does not mention any directories for various professionals that may be required on a mold remediation project. Regardless, utilizing this basic criteria for your contractors helps when reviewing the various acronyms used in the mold remediation industry today for a professional that meets this definition.

I’ll give you a couple of examples:

The definition says the individual should be certified. It doesn’t say they should hold a certificate of completion. The difference is that some titles used in the industry today are just self-designated titles given upon completion of a course by the course provider. Some of these certificates of completion require exams, others do not. Whereas, one who is certified, meets the current National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) Standard 1100 definition of a certified professional (see www.acac.org/about/noca1100.htm for more information).

Examples of a certified professional include *“independent Indoor Environmental Professionals”* (IEPs—a title taken from the IICRC S520) such as Council-certified Indoor Environmentalists, Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultants (www.acac.org) and Certified Industrial Hygienists (www.aiha.org), for any assessments you may need performed, and Council-certified Microbial Remediators and Council-certified Microbial Remediation Supervisors (www.acac.org), for any remediation needs you may have. (For more on other acronyms used in the industry visit our website at www.solutionsiec.com/iaq_acronyms.html.)

Does certification mean experience and practical knowledge and skill? Not always. That is why it is important to look for certifications that include a peer-reviewing process and an applicant’s experience-base (like those I mentioned above). This is what can be called *“board-awarded”* and/or *“accredited”* certifications.

SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting is proud to offer service by

only those that meet all of the NOCA Standard’s prerequisites for *“board-awarded”*, *“Council-certified”*, and *“accredited”* certification in both assessment (Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultant) and microbial remediation supervision (Council-certified Microbial Remediation Supervisor).

You’ll notice that my signature always includes a third-party background check of me and my credentials. This is another good way to familiarize yourself with the specific disciplines a individual has in relation to the task you need performed. The Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA at www.iaqa.org) has a great program of background checks for this purpose of any of its members willing to participate. Just search your zip code and click on the members that have a IAQA PRO.FILE.

Author: Jason Yost, CIEC, CMRS, WRT, is owner of SOLUTIONS IEC, and has been in the cleaning, restoration, remediation, mitigation, and IAQ industry for over seventeen years. Jason is an individual member of the Indoor Air Quality Association and a board member of the American Indoor Air Quality Council. Visit Jason’s IAQ PRO.FILE at: www.iaqa.org/profile_agreement.asp?id=223.

Avoiding a Mold Contractor's Conflict of Interest Practices

In this issue's front page article, "Who is Mold's 'Competent Person'?", we introduce you to a means to determine who is qualified to perform mold's various tasks. In this article I would like to address another area of concern found in the industry today—individuals and companies that practice conflict of interest policies. Knowing what to look for will help you avoid such problems as contractors that like to exaggerate a problem to sale a job or contractors that like to down-play a potential health and safety threat in order to sale a job (a common practice of many without the knowledge and ability to do the job right).

About two years ago I was called out to a home where a "mold assessor" told the home owner that they would have to evacuate the home while the entire structure was remediated—before the "assessor" even finished sampling the

home for mold! Reason? The "assessor" told the home owner that she (the "assessor") was sneezing since entering the home because of the level of mold inside the structure.

The "assessor" then quickly moved on to measure up the entire structure and provide an estimate for mold remediation. Yep! You got it! The "assessor" was also a remediation contractor too.

I was called out to review the Condition (relative to mold), as a second opinion, and generate any necessary protocols (scope of work). After a thorough examination and sampling analysis of the structure, the mold issues requiring remediation were isolated to the basement level only—just as the home owner had suspected. A protocol was generated and given to the home owner who then proceeded to look for a competent remediator to perform the work

outlined in the protocol.

The conflict of interest here was that the inspecting individual (and business) was operating as both the assessor and remediation technician. The reason, although obvious in this example, that this is a conflict of interest is that anyone that assesses a building **and** performs remediation activities has everything to gain in telling you there is a mold problem! They're going to charge you thousands to perform the remediation work!

Here is another example:

About six months ago I was called out to another home (as a second opinion) because a "home inspector" found "toxic, black" mold in a house for sale. The home sellers had a fit, reporting no known problems in the past. . . .

(read more on page 4)

Purdue University's DRR Program

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

. . . to seize the management opportunities with confidence and competence.

Why is this important to know? In the past only the "independent Indoor Environmental Professionals" (IICRC's S500 and S520 Standard & Reference Guides for Water Damage Restoration and Mold Remediation) were expected and looked upon to have advanced degrees to perform their tasks. Unfortunately, this left many in the disaster restoration and emergency response fields lacking the practical education to effectively manage disasters. Confusion abound, despite the best efforts of the industry to develop Standards of Care, and consumers and laborers became increasingly frustrated with the lack of direction and level of indecisiveness coming out of management.

As frustrations and confusions increased, many caring professionals in the industry began to ask, "What is wrong with the current way in which the industry is educating and recognizing technicians? What can be done to make things better?"

While some have sought to develop non-bias means of advanced accreditation in specific fields of expertise, like microbial remediation and supervision (www.acac.org for example), the maturation processes of these accreditation programs were leaving some impatiently waiting the perfection they sought. (In fact, despite NOCA Standards defining the difference between these certification programs and the certificate of completion programs of other education providers, there is still a lot of ignorance as to what these accreditations mean

and the value of them to some in the industry today.)

Purdue University's DRR program will, for the first time, allow management professionals to seek independent college credits toward their field of expertise before entering the construction and disaster response industry. "In the past several years, we've seen many disasters in this country, such as Hurricane Katrina, that require individuals with a strong knowledge in the construction industry, the science and technology of disaster response and restoration, as well as the management of people, finances, and processes common to post-disaster situations," said Robert P. Cox, professor and head of the Department of Building Construction Management, in a press release. "Graduates of this specialization will have a broad knowledge in all of these areas and will be qualified to work as contractors, company owners, in insurance or in regulatory career positions."

For more information you can contact Professor Randy Rapp either at rrapp@purdue.edu or 765-494-8420.

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SOLUTIONS
Indoor Environmental Consulting

“Don’t let problems with poor indoor air quality take control of your life. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—Indoor Environmental Consulting—today!”

(877) 624-7185

We’re on the web!
www.SolutionsIEC.com

SOLUTIONS IEC is a truly experienced business that, with over seventeen years of mitigation, restoration, remediation and hygiene practices, can assist you in determining the Category and Condition of the damaged structure; develop a protocol that is real and specific to the structure; and can provide expertise beyond just an inspector’s role. Our staff of professionals have been recognized in both indoor environmental consulting (Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultants) and microbial remediation supervision (Council-certified Microbial Remediation Supervisors) - two of the most prestigious awards in the industry today! Don’t let poor IAQ take control of your life. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—Indoor Environmental Consulting—today!

Serving the Indiana and Illinois states!



Avoiding a Mold Contractor’s Conflict of Interest Practices

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

... with mold or water. The home sellers, sighting the fact that the “home inspector” owned a general contracting company and the conflict of interest that comes with that, told the potential home buyers that they wanted a second opinion.

I asked for a copy of the “home inspector’s” report to find that the only thing that was given to the home sellers was a laboratory report saying this and that much of this or that type of mold was found. Oh yes—at the bottom of the page, toxic was highlighted by the home inspector.

I asked the home sellers what their “home inspector” had told them about these results. They reported that he told them that the results, of the one room tested (an unfinished basement), were indicative of the whole structure and that he could “clean it up for them” for “this amount of money”.

After careful investigation it was discovered that there was a slight elevation in

the unfinished basement, but the air quality of the basement was not indicative of the rest of the structure. A protocol was generated and the home buyer was able to remedy (thus remediate) things for the buyer—and they sold the home!

SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting does not participate in any conflict of interest practices. We are an independent (of any remediation or general contracting ownership or interest) indoor environmental testing, assessing and consultation company. In fact, in order to address concerns over sample analysis, SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting sends all of their samples to an independent and industry accredited laboratory, EMSL Analytical, Inc. (who, also, does not perform investigation and remediation activities).

Additionally, SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting is proud to offer confidential service by only those that meet all of the NOCA Standard’s prereq-

uisites for “board-awarded”, “Council-certified”, and “accredited” certification. You’ll notice that my signature always includes a third-party background check of me and my credentials. This is another good way to familiarize yourself with the specific disciplines a individual has in relation to the task you need performed. The Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA at www.iaqa.org) has a great program of background checks for this purpose of any of its members willing to participate. Just search your zip code and click on the members that have a IAQA PRO.FILE.

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