

Section 28: AIR QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

Air quality concerns may occur when employees are involved in activities such as welding, cutting, and construction work. Typical air quality hazards include dusts, fumes, chemicals, solvents, and carbon monoxide. Air quality issues can occur in all types of workplaces, and may result from inadequate ventilation or other control measures, water intrusion, or remodeling/painting activities. Usually there is a way to evaluate and measure these substances to determine the appropriate protective measures to take. Sometimes a specific contaminant or deficiency is not identifiable, even though occupants have symptoms.

APPLICABILITY

This section applies to all King County work areas, including office and field work.

EVALUATION OF AIR QUALITY

Some air contaminants, such as fumes and solvents, have specific regulated allowable exposure limits. Various instruments are available to measure the amount of these contaminants in the air. Typically, compounds found in indoor air environments are not regulated. However, there are certain protocols, guidelines and criteria for evaluating indoor air quality concerns.

If you or your colleagues have concerns about your workplace air quality, contact Safety and Claims Management at 206-477-3350. A Safety and Health Professional will discuss the situation with you and take the appropriate course of action, possibly including an air quality evaluation of your work area.