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(ACE 54/94)
for information

Indoor Air Pollution - A Brief Overview

Purpose

1. The purpose of this note is to brief members on the issues that are being addressed by the Administration in relation to the control of indoor air pollution.

Indoor air quality standards and guidelines

2. The intention is to set indoor air quality standards or guidelines to provide a yardstick against which control measures can be developed.

The Major Indoor Air Pollution Issues

2. The following are considered to be important indoor air pollution issues :

(a) *Radon*

Action is in hand by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to issue an information leaflet to assist the public in reducing radon level in their premises. EPD will also draw up guidelines to ensure buildings are designed and operated to achieve low radon exposure potential.

(b) *Sick Building Syndrome*

The term refers to complaints covering a syndrome of non-specific feelings of malaise, the onset of which is associated with the occupancy of modern buildings. EPD plans to deploy resources for investigating this issue in 1995. The investigation will cover subjects such as the variety of symptoms of occupants, emissions from building or furnishing materials and from office and consumer equipment and chemicals.

(c) *Legionnaires disease*

This is a specific identifiable building associated illness. Advice on practical ways to reduce the possibility of this disease in the form of a publicity leaflet was sent to private building owners in 1993 by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

(d) *Enclosed areas with public access*

EPD has investigated into air pollution in underground car parks, road tunnels and covered transport interchanges. Based on the findings, Practice Notes for car parks and road tunnels are now at the final stage of consultation. Further work is being undertaken to develop mitigating measures for covered transport interchanges.

(e) *Smoking*

Smoking is addressed by the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance.