

CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools

A nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting policies, practices and resources that protect school occupants from environmental health hazards

www.pollutionfreeschools.org

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MONITORING ADHERENCE TO CT SCHOOL INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY LAWS

The CT General Statutes contain laws dealing with the following school indoor environmental quality (IEQ) issues. For your school district to be in compliance with CT Law, all of the statements below should be true for your school as of August 2010.

School Bus Emissions

- School bus engines are not idled for more than three consecutive minutes when the bus is stopped, with limited exceptions.

Pesticide Usage

(Note – The CT DEP website states that when it comes to indoor pesticide policy school districts “... can favor traditional pest control methods that utilize scheduled pesticide applications whether pests are present or not or a policy of integrated pest management (IPM) that utilizes all methods of pest control including structural maintenance, sanitation and the judicious use of pesticides if pest populations exceed an acceptable level.”

- Only licensed applicators apply pesticides in the building or on the grounds of public schools, other than a regional vocational agriculture center, except in emergencies.
- Pesticides are not applied during school hours or planned events, except in emergencies.
- Restricted pesticides are not used, even in emergencies.
- Children are not allowed to reenter an area where pesticide was used until it is safe according to the specifications on the pesticide label.
- The school board provides parents, guardians and staff with a written statement at the beginning of the school year of the board's policy on pesticide application on school property and a description of any pesticide applications made at the school during the previous school year. (During the year for transfer students and newly hired staff)
- The school board provides a registry at the school for parents, guardians and staff to sign up on who want to be notified before pesticides are sprayed.
- Pesticide application records are maintained on site for five years.
- Lawn-care pesticides are not used on the grounds and athletic fields of public and private schools with grades K-8, except in emergencies

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) for all schools:

- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are maintained in accordance with prevailing standards.
- HVAC systems are operated continuously while students and school staff occupy school facilities, with limited exceptions.
- The school board has adopted and implemented an IAQ program that provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the IAQ of its facilities.

- The school board reports every two years to the State Commissioner of Education on the condition of its facilities and on actions taken to implement its IAQ program (The State Department of Education ED050 School Facilities form asks for an IAQ Rating for each school and an update on how specific IAQ issues have been addressed.) By October 1, 2010 and thereafter, this report is posted on each school's and/or the board of education's website.
- HVAC maintenance records are kept for at least 5 years.
- An IAQ Committee may be established for each school in order to address issues affecting the health of school occupants. A school safety committee established pursuant to section 10-220f of the general statutes is not prohibited from addressing IAQ issues that affect the health of occupants of school facilities.

IAQ for newer schools (constructed, extended, renovated or replaced after January 1, 2003):

- The school board has performed comprehensive inspections and evaluations, prior to January 1, 2008 and every five years thereafter, to detect environmental problems. HVAC and plumbing systems, radon levels, potential for exposure to microbial contaminants and chemical compounds, degree of pest infestation and pesticide usage, degree of moisture incursion, building cleanliness, building structural elements, use of space and the presence of and plans for removal of hazardous substances were reviewed and provision for IAQ maintenance training for staff was addressed.
- These inspection reports were made public at a Board of Education meeting.

IAQ for schools being constructed, extended or replaced:

- A Phase I environmental site assessment was completed
- The site is not in an area of moderate or high radon potential, unless construction techniques mitigate radon levels.
- New or replacement roofs have the required pitch and guarantees on materials and workmanship and are being built following correct construction practices.
- SMACNA or similar IAQ guidelines for construction during occupancy are being followed.
- The building maintenance staff is trained in plant operation, including HVAC systems and IAQ issues.
- **CT High Performance School Regulations and Guidelines** are being followed.
After January 1, 2009 all CT schools must be built or renovated to meet specified energy and environmental standards if:
 - the new construction project costs \$5 million or more and at least \$2 million of the funding comes from the state, or
 - the renovation project costs \$2 million or more and at least \$2 million of the funding comes from the state

Such schools must satisfy all the mandatory requirements of the State of Connecticut Regulations of the CT Office of Policy and Management Concerning The Establishment of High Performance Building Construction Standards for State-Funded Buildings. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver or a Two-Globe rating from the Green Globe system self-certification program may only be used as an alternative for meeting the optional strategies. (Section 16a-38k-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies) These schools must also exceed the current building code energy efficiency standards by at least 20%

Green Cleaning Products in schools (should be phased in by July 1, 2011)

- By July 1, 2011, only cleaning products that meet specific state-developed guidelines or environmental standards are being used. (Green Seal or Eco Logo Certified products only)

- The types of cleaning products covered in this legislation include: general purpose cleaners, glass cleaners, bathroom cleaners, floor finishes, floor strippers, hand cleansers and soaps.
- Any disinfectant, disinfecting cleaner, sanitizer or other antimicrobial product regulated by the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act is not covered by this law.
- By October 2010 and annually thereafter, the school district provides school staff and, upon request, parents or guardians of students enrolled a written copy of the school's green clean policy.
- The school district's green clean policy includes:
 1. The types and names of environmentally preferable products being used
 2. Locations of application of these products
 3. Schedule of cleaning
 4. The name of the supervisor in charge of green cleaning
- The school district's green clean policy contains the statement: "No parent, guardian, teacher or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect."
- The school district provides a written copy of the green clean policy to parents and guardians of students who transfer to a school and to any staff hired during the school year.
- The school district's green clean policy and information provided on the school facility survey (ED050) about indoor air quality issues are posted on each school's and/or the board of education's website.