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Talk title and synopsis

IAQ in office buildings, recent contributions in Europe & in France

After housing, the office is the second place of life for many workers. At the same time, Indoor Air Quality in office spaces have been much less studied than in housing or places welcoming young children. In Europe, this was the goal of OFFICAIR project which focused on air quality and comfort in office buildings. In France, the Indoor Air Quality Observatory (OQAI) has launched a specific research program and a national campaign to study the characteristics of this place of life where we spend an average of 7 to 8 hours per day. We present here the main results of these two projects which show clearly that in office rooms, the concentrations are generally low and below the reference values. However, IAQ problems can be detected in various cases. In these studies, many different kinds of pollutants have been detected and some emerging ones. Following globally this high variety of chemical species is obviously out of reach in most cases. This is the reason why we present an original method to determine priority indoor air pollutants in office buildings. It uses both a chronic risk assessment approach by calculating a hazard quotient, and hazard classifications based on carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic effects, and endocrine disruption.