Healthy Schools Fact Sheet

PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS:

RESOURCES :

Indoor Air Quality: Air quality in schools may be adversely affected by lack of, or deterioration of, proper ventilation, efficiency of air filters, water damage, condition of duct insulation, improper functioning of drain traps, presence of animals and plants.

Mass. Department of Public Health (DPH) [617-624-5757]
Mass. Div. of Occupational Safety (DOS) [617-969-7177]
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [617-918 1639]
DPH conducts indoor air evaluations of school buildings on request. DOS provides testing if indoor air quality is of concern to teachers or staff. EPA provides educational materials, such as "Tools for Schools," a self-help kit.

Sanitary Conditions in public buildings and diseases:
M.G.L. chapter 111, section 5,6 State Sanitary Code

Health concerns, e.g. asthma, may relate to sanitary conditions.

Mass. Department of Public Health [617-624-5757]
Your local Board of Health
State and local agencies may assist in evaluation of the source of disease in schools related to the sanitary code.

Unused chemicals and mercury-containing products:
310 CMR 30.000 Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulations

If your school has science labs, vocational shops, art programs, you may have hazardous wastes. There are storage and shipping requirements. You must prepare for emergencies and train staff in proper handling. All fluorescent lamps and mercury-containing products must be recycled or else managed as a hazardous waste. Keep records of how these hazardous materials are disposed.

Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
DEP InfoLine: [617-338-2255,1- 800-462-0444]
DEP Compliance Assistance: [617-292-5898]
Mass. Office of Technical Assistance (OTA): [617-626-1060]
provides audits and assistance in toxic use reduction
Barnstable County Health District: [508-362-2511]
Franklin County Solid Waste District: [413-772-2438]
provide chemical clean-out assistance

Outdoor Air Quality:
310 CMR 7.00 Massachusetts Air Quality Regulations

If your school has a boiler, it is subject to pollution control restrictions. Air pollution during demolition work, including asbestos removal and disposal, is also regulated.

DEP InfoLine and Regional Service Centers
Western Region: [413-784-1100]
Central Region: [508-792-7650]
Northeast Region: [978-661-7600]
Southeast Region: [508-947-6557]

Lead and Asbestos:
40 CFR Part 763 and 453 CMR 6.00; 454 CMR 22.00
310 CMR 7.00, 18.00, 19.00
Every school (K-12) must have on file an asbestos management plan. Lead in drinking water is of concern.

Mass. Div. of Occupational Safety (DOS) [617-969-7177]
provides assistance concerning inspection and asbestos removal, advises workers concerning health and safety issues, licenses asbestos removal contractors, training providers, laboratories and private consultants.

Underground storage tanks:
527 CMR 9.00 Tanks
If your school has underground storage tanks, you must have leak detection, overfill and corrosion protection which meet federal code.

Mass. Dept. of Fire Services (DFS) [978-567-3300]

Workplace Right-to-Know:
454 CMR 21.00 Workplace Regulations

The workplace portion of Massachusetts Right-to-Know requires that information on chemical hazards be given to employees by providing them with access to Material Safety Data Sheets, by labeling containers and by training on chemical hazards and safe work procedures.

Mass. Div.of Occupational Safety (DOS) [617-969-7177]
South Central Recycling Association [508-867-9491]
assists workplaces in complying with the Mass. Right-to-Know law

General Occupational Health and Safety:
M.G.L. Chapter 149, section 6

Health and safety concerns may arise for custodial/maintenance staff, vocational school staff, who are exposed to chemicals.

Mass Div. of Occupational Safety (DOS) [617-969-7177]
assists in recognition, evaluation, and control of health hazards to workers. Services may include air monitoring for chemical exposures, evaluation of respirator protection programs and walkthrough inspections of science labs and vocational shops.

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Other Resources & Information:

Energy Conservation Improvement Program, administered by the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources (DOER), provides a free energy audit for public schools to identify conservation measures which may qualify for grant funding. For more information, call (617) 727-4732.

Innovative Technologies: The Massachusetts Strategic Environmental Technology Partnership (STEP) can provide information on new technologies that monitor indoor air, provide stormwater control, control of mercury in wastewater, monitoring of underground tanks and other methods which may offer less expensive environmental protection. For information, call (617) 727-9800x425.

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Massachusetts Regulations (CMR's) may be obtained at the State Bookstores in Boston (617-727-2834) and Springfield (413-784-1376).
The above is a summary of some of the regulations applying to schools which has been compiled by the Multi-Agency Task Force for Environmental Health & Safety in Schools. A more complete listing will be issued through the Task Force and the School Building Assistance Program, Mass. Department of Education.