

IAQ TESTING

Recommendation Resolution (Management) - Response Date: February 5, 2025

Employer:

Partially Accept Recommendations per comments below

- 1. HSEWB to undertake a strategy of periodic testing of air quality, including CO2 levels, in a sampling of Osgoode classrooms and on a schedule to be determined by the Employer but not to fall below at least two periods of testing in each teaching term. The committee recommends that testing be performed twice a year in mid-January and mid-October.**

The operation of the HVAC system at the university is continuously monitored by York Facilities to ensure indoor air quality meets all recommended standards/guidelines. York Facilities has confirmed that the HVAC system in IKB is functioning properly.*

HSEWB is available to conduct testing agreed upon based on the concerns reported. Follow up testing can be determined based on the findings and identified needs.

- 2. HSEWB to undertake a strategy of periodic testing of the air filters in every HVAC room in Ignat Kaneff Building.**

Proper operation and functioning of the HVAC system (including the filtration system) is the responsibility of York Facilities. The HVAC system is checked during scheduled preventative maintenance throughout the year.

- 3. A committee member representing workers is to be present at the beginning of the industrial hygiene testing procedures recommended above, as required by the OHSA.**

As noted in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Program (see attached), this is part of the regular IAQ assessment process and is followed. A Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) worker member is invited to be present at the beginning of industrial hygiene testing.

- 4. The HSEWB HSA is required to write and distribute a formal written report of the results of any testing to the Osgoode JHSC, as stated in Appendix B of the York University Indoor Air Quality Program.**

This is part of a regular IAQ assessment process and is followed. The University shares the results of industrial hygiene testing with JHSCs as per the OHSA.

- 5. In the absence of (or as a supplement to) the above testing strategy, that Osgoode instructors be advised of the option to test CO₂ levels in their classroom using a CO₂ monitoring device (e.g., as pictured).**

Due to their limitations and potential liability, the University does not recommend the use of testing devices that are designed for personal use. Should there be a need for an IAQ testing, the University's professional equipment/resources and expertise should be utilised.

- 6. That the Osgoode community be advised that, where the CO₂ levels have been found to exceed 1000ppm in a classroom, an instructor may opt, for health and safety and/ or pedagogical reasons related to cognitive function, to shift a class to Zoom or outdoors.**

CO₂ levels of 1000ppm, or reasonably above, are still within the guidelines of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and do not classify as hazardous to the health/safety of occupants. As such, York University considers these acceptable for the room types referenced, and there is no reason to leave the space. If the occupants notice air circulation issues or experience any symptoms, they should report those to their Manager/Academic Leader, who should follow up with the appropriate parties e.g. York Facilities, HSEWB to investigate and address accordingly.

***Current References/standards:**

- *Appendix A in the IAQ Program is outdated, and it has been revised to reflect the current occupational exposure limits (OELs)/standards and guidelines. The reference of 1000ppm CO₂ is no longer recognised as a guideline by ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers). A copy of the updated limits/guidelines is attached here for your reference. Please note that the IAQ Program and the related procedures are currently under review.*
- *The establishment of OELs/standards by the regulatory bodies and standards' organizations goes through a rigorous review and approval process.*