

 <p>BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY</p> <p>Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability Office</p>	<p>Indoor Air Quality Idaho Division of Building Safety Sanitation, Ventilation and Illumination 080 Currently OSHA has no Indoor Air Quality Standards</p> <p>Revision 2, October 1, 2013</p>
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Statement of Program - When an employee feels there is a question in regards to the indoor air quality of a building, the concern should be raised with the Boise State Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability Department, (EHS&S). An electronic [incident report](#) can be filed which will alert EHS&S staff to the concern followed by an investigation. Concerns may also be filed with [EHS&S Staff](#) via e-mail or phone.

Indoor Air Quality – Is best described as how inside air can affect a person’s health, comfort and ability to work. It can include temperature, humidity, lack of fresh air, mold from water damage or exposure to other chemicals. Currently OSHA has no indoor air quality (IAQ) standards, but it does provide guidelines. People working in buildings with poor IAQ may notice unpleasant or musty odors or may feel that the building is hot and stuffy. Individuals may experience symptoms at work but symptoms disappear when they leave the work environment. This might include headaches or irritation of the eyes, nose and throat. Indoor air shall not contain contaminants that exceed concentrations known to impair health or cause discomfort to the occupants. Such contaminants include various gases, vapors, microorganisms, smoke and other particulate matter. For specific levels of contaminants please contact the EHS&S Department.

Testing of Indoor Air Quality – There is no single test to identify an IAQ problem. Indoor air pollutants are typically complex mixtures of low level contaminants, which are difficult to measure. When notified, EHS&S will respond and investigate the situation including a review of the environment, interview of personnel, note any symptoms, determine if there are changes in the environment including a construction or remodel project and follow up with facilities maintenance to see if the HVAC system is working appropriately. Sampling will be completed only if the situation points to a specific contaminant triggering the response. Based on the results of specific testing, an evaluation will be done and any necessary corrective actions will be made, if possible. All costs in relation to sampling and analysis will be at the expense of the department making the request.

Construction and Remodeling –As the campus continues to evolve, individuals may have to work alongside a remodel or construction project occurring in their building for varying lengths of time. Projects like this present a variety of situations which may release contaminants and pollutants that can impact the IAQ of a building. Contaminants may be transported to other areas via the HVAC system and subsequently affect populations beyond the immediate project area. Coordination of these projects with building coordinators, project managers, facilities maintenance and EHS&S can successfully control pollutant levels, address concerns and maintain occupant comfort during and after construction activities. Projects on campus follow the A&E Services Construction Specification Guidelines which specify low VOC products, segregating construction areas from active work areas and working with departments to lessen the impact due to the construction. If you would like to review the Construction Specification Guidelines please contact A&E Services.