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## **Indoor Air Quality & Mold Assessment**

### **Why High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.?**

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and contaminants have been causing increasing concerns in homes, schools, and offices for what seems to be the last few years. In actuality mold is a naturally occurring growth and is everywhere. It becomes a concern if it is toxic. Specific testing and investigation should be performed to determine the type of contaminant and then an appropriate plan of action for removal.

High Safety's experts bring more than 15 years of experience to your indoor air quality issues. Our expertise goes beyond basic testing, it involves the fine art of investigation for appropriately diagnosing your air quality problem and coming up with a cost effective plan for remediation and mitigation. High Safety has experience in developing mold remediation plans, including complex contaminants, biological hazards, and ventilation system effectiveness. This is important to know when considering partnering with a consultant.

### **Risk Communication**

High Safety recognizes that the communication of risk is as important as the factual data and sample results that we obtain. High Safety can assist you in clearly understanding the risk and developing communication messages to your audiences (teachers, students, employees, or the public). This approach can help to alleviate the *panic* that can accompany such IAQ issues.

How these safety and health risks are explained can make a significant difference in the comfort level of those affected. We can provide assistance in designing a message that is appropriate and defines the problem without being alarming. We take the technical and put into terms everyone can understand. We will also use the principles of risk communication to stem negative impacts that can result when a safety or health issue is at hand. We have had experience in developing messages for audiences fearful of a wide range of safety and health issues.

### **Services**

High Safety's IAQ services are geared toward a three tiered approach. This approach considers the customer that wants to be pro-active, *or Prevention* related; the customer who has a problem, *or Response* related; and finally, the customer who is looking to move on after the problem has been mitigated, *or Recovery* related.

**Considering the *Prevention, Response, and Recovery* phases, the following are services that we can provide:**

- **Prevention Services**

***Safe Air Facility™ Program*** – This pro-active service assures the occupants of your facility that you are concerned about their health. At the completion of the initial assessment, High Safety will issue a certificate, a poster to inform occupants of the IAQ tests performed, and a Safe Air Facility™ electrostatic window sticker that will inform patrons entering your building that you participate in this program. Following the initial assessment, the certification can be renewed annually.

***Emergency Response Training and Policy & Procedure Development*** – When a problem arises and action must be taken, the best plan is to prepare to respond quickly. High Safety can help to develop a new policy or review the plan that is in place. We will make recommendations to implement the procedure and assist with any training necessary to carry out the appropriate preparedness for any emergency.

- **Response Services**

***IAQ Testing*** – In response to you notifying us that you have a possible problem, a diagnostic and comprehensive investigation will be performed by our staff. Results will be reported and explained to you, the customer, in a thorough report. The report will include a remediation plan if a problem exists. Our staff will oversee the process of remediation and will perform testing for final clearance of the site.

***Remediation Plan Development*** – There are many firms that offer “certified” personnel. Many times these individuals have attended a course that “certifies” them as a mold or indoor air quality expert. Unfortunately, many of these individuals have limited understanding of health and safety issues. The most significant designation in this field is the CIH – Certified Industrial Hygienist. Our remediation plans and test procedures are developed and overseen by a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

***Sick Building Syndrome Investigation*** – Our staff is familiar with the common causes of this phenomenon and performs tests that rule out specific and common allergic reactions. Depending on the types of symptoms being reported and the areas involved determine the course of the investigation. A pragmatic approach is taken to provide a clear and concise report and in providing a solution.

- **Recovery Services**

***Risk Communication Training*** – Dealing with an IAQ problem can be difficult due to the number of people concerned with the issue. Depending on the setting this can include employees, teachers/students, upper management, and possibly the media. The wrong phrases used can cause frenzy. High Safety can train your people to know what to say and assist with communicating the findings without creating panic.

***Response Training and Remediation*** – Both of these services were detailed earlier and are a key component to the Recovery phase. High Safety will assist in creating plans to aid in the prevention and clean up of microbial outbreaks.

***For more information please contact Curt Wittman, CIH & Senior Safety Consultant.***