

# Section 10

## Environmental Safety

### Indoor Air Quality

Indoor air contaminants can originate within the building or be drawn in from outdoors. If contaminant sources are not controlled, indoor air quality problems can arise, even if the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system is properly designed and well maintained.

Orange County strives to design and maintain its facilities in such a way that a safe and healthy environment is provided for its employees.

The Risk Management Division shall be contacted as soon as possible before leasing, buying, or renovation activities are started in order to assess indoor air quality requirements.

Environmental  
Compliance  
Program  
(ECP) without  
attachments

### Radon

Radon gas is colorless, odorless and tasteless, but it is radioactive. The primary health hazard related to radon gas is lung cancer. Radon is measured in units called “picocuries per liter” or pci/L.

According to the State of Florida Department of Rehabilitative Services, Chapter 10D-91, Florida Administrative Code, Control of Radiation Hazards, Part XIII C, Measurement Protocols, Addendums 10D-91.1317 to 10D-91.1321 the following buildings are required to be measured for radon gas:

- (a) All state-owned, state-operated, state-regulated or state-licensed 24-hour care facilities. This shall include but not be limited to the following: nursing facilities providing 24-hour care, detention centers, correctional institutions, and pre-release centers.
- (b) All state-regulated day care centers for children or minors (Head Start Centers).

If **no** measurements of 4 pci/L or greater have been detected prior to July 1, 1994, 20% of the below ground and first story rooms, 4% of the second story rooms, and 2% of the third story rooms shall be measured and reported to the department every 5 years thereafter.

The Risk Management Division shall be contacted as soon as possible before leasing, or buying buildings designated for use as described in items a and b. Trained personnel will conduct radon tests following the established protocols.

## **Asbestos**

Asbestos is the generic name for a group of minerals that occur naturally in the soil like gold, iron, etc. It has a wide variety of uses in different industries, but it is also known to be a health hazard when small, sharp fibers become airborne and inhaled. Some diseases may not appear until 20 to 40 years after exposure. Some asbestos-related diseases are asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) to protect the public. On March 31, 1971 the EPA identified asbestos as a hazardous pollutant, and on April 6, 1973, EPA first promulgated the Asbestos NESHAP in 40 CFR Part 61. This was revised in 1990 and amended.

The Risk Management Division shall be notified in advance of scheduled demolition or renovation activities. Also, Risk Management Division staff shall be contacted before purchasing or leasing real estate to arrange an inspection. Annual re-inspections are conducted to assess the condition of the asbestos containing materials (ACM).

Friable category I and II asbestos shall be removed by a certified asbestos contractor and an asbestos consultant prior to demolition or renovation activities. Non-friable ACM that becomes friable during the project, and contaminated waste and material that cannot be decontaminated, should be treated as Regulated Asbestos Containing Materials (RACM) by keeping it wet and disposed of in a landfill that operates in accordance with 40 CFR Part 61.150 and Part 61.154 or Part 61.155.

## **Lead-Based Paint**

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Construction Industry Standard 29 CFR 1926.62 "Interim Final Rule for Protection of Workers from Lead" was published in May 4, 1993.

The standard addresses lead exposure assessment, compliance methods, respiratory protection, protective clothing and equipment, hygiene facilities and practices, medical compliance, removal, protection, employee information and training, signs, record keeping and observation of monitoring.

Orange County must provide training to all workers that may become exposed to lead-based paint during grinding, sanding and stripping operations. Awareness sessions are mandatory for all employees whose work clearly places them in contact with lead paint, such as painters and carpenters.

Facilities older than 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint. The Risk Management Division shall be notified if any demolitions or renovations are scheduled and when real estate leases or purchases are being considered. Risk Management will coordinate an inspection and abatement as needed, with a certified lead abatement contractor and consultant.