



School Environmental Health and Safety Program Electronic Update October 2008

- ODH is going to be participating in a research study regarding the impact of the inspections associated with Jarod's Law and the rules in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) chapter 3701-54 and their affect on the Indoor Air Quality of Ohio's schools. As a part of this study we will need to review inspection reports for a number of randomly selected schools from across the state. In order to do so we will be requesting these reports from the local health departments within whose jurisdiction the schools are located.
- As stated in the previous update, ODH is going to propose a technical revision to OAC chapter 3701-54. The revisions have been reviewed by the rule advisory committee and will be posted on the ODH website for public comment in the near future. When this is done an announcement will be posted on the School Environmental Health Program website. Following the public comment period a public hearing will be scheduled as well as a JCARR hearing. We expect the rules to be filed during the winter of 2009. However their effective date will not be until after the current school year, and they will be in effect for the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.
- Appendix A to rule 3701-54-08, or as it has come to be known the "Banned Chemical List" has been modified as part of the revision process. The original list is not currently a part of the regulations, as it was not contained in the original filing of the rules. In order to complete the revision of this document ODH collaborated with USEPA, The National Science Teachers' Association, The Science Education Council of Ohio, The Ohio Department of Education, and The Seattle-King County Health Department. The changes were unanimously approved by the representatives of these groups, and will hopefully allow for adequate science education along with a necessary emphasis on safety. The draft list is posted on the ODH School Environmental Health Program Web Page, a link is provided below.
- During July, ODH conducted a survey of sanitarians throughout the state regarding the program. The survey was sent to the general email address provided to ODH by local

health departments. A total of 161 sanitarians participated in the survey and valuable information was gained as a part of this process. This information was used during the development of the revisions to the rules. As a result of the success of this survey, we are going to send a similar survey to the schools across the state in an attempt to gauge their feelings regarding the rules and the program. If possible, we would appreciate it if you could take any opportunity to inform your schools to be on the look out for the survey and to encourage them to respond.

- ODH is sponsoring five regional training events that have been designed for school personnel. These trainings will provide schools with information regarding radon testing that will allow them to decide if they wish to conduct the testing themselves rather than hiring a private contractor. In addition, these trainings will provide attendees with information as to how to conduct a roof inspection, how a proper asbestos management plan is developed and maintained, and the basics of playground safety. Registration information for these trainings is contained on the School Environmental Health Program website, please see the link below.
- The School Environmental Health Program held a conference call for sanitarians conducting school inspections on September 12th. It was well attended. All questions were recorded. Program is working on a new FAQ that will include the answers to all of these questions. This will be available on our Web page in the near future. Another conference call will be scheduled after the rule revisions are posted for comment.
- Please visit the School Environmental Health Program website for any announcements or new information about the program, any upcoming training events, and the rule revisions. You can find the website at:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/schooleh/sehmain.aspx>