



Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

Number: 50-001

Title: Biological Hazard: Mould

Saskatchewan Employment Act:

OHS Regulation: 65, 66, 67, 302

Date: January 1, 2017

Date Revised/Reaffirmed: April 20, 2018

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Purpose

To prevent or minimize exposure to mould

Definition

“Moulds” are simple, small organisms found virtually everywhere – indoors and outdoors. Usually, most mould spores come from the outdoors. It is common to find mould and their spores in the air of buildings and growing on certain moistened structural materials, furnishings and other building contents. Mould growth can often be seen as coloured, woolly or sooty-textured growth. Moulds may give off a musty or earthy odour or smell faintly of alcohol.

Moulds need an organic food source, a source of moisture and a place to grow (often a darker area). Indoor food sources include structural materials such as: ceiling tiles, gyproc, insulation, wallpaper, fabric and dust. These materials also provide a place for moulds to grow. Some sources of indoor moisture include: flooding, condensation, backed up sewers, cool air humidifiers, plumbing leaks, leaky roofs, steam from any source and even house plants.

People are exposed to some amount of moulds and their mycotoxins on a daily basis, usually without harm. Exposure to substantial amounts of mould and mould spores may contribute to skin, eye and respiratory irritations. Individuals with existing respiratory conditions and other sensitivities may be at greater risk when exposed to mould.

Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- The workplace does not become extensively contaminated with mould
- Adequate ventilation is provided and contaminants are prevented from accumulating in the air
- An adequate supply of clean and wholesome air and maintain its circulation throughout the worksite
- The mechanical ventilation system is constructed and maintained to minimize the growth and spread of mould through the ventilation system
- Safe work procedures are developed for mould remediation, including PPE required
- All reasonable steps are taken to prevent a worker’s exposure to mould
- The Occupational Health Committee is informed of the assessment and remediation of contaminated areas

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- They regularly inspect the workplace for hazards that could lead to the development of mould
- They investigate and document all reports of mould, and develop a short term and long term action plan
- Workers are informed of the hazards and risks to their health and safety in areas where mould has been identified
- Workers are trained in safe work procedures in areas where mould has been identified
- They contact Facilities Management for assistance in evaluating or developing a plan to remove the mould
- That adequate controls are in place to prevent the redevelopment of mould

Worker must ensure:

- They report moisture concerns, visible mould or if an earthy or musty odor is present to Manager/Supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Reporting Line
- They do not attempt to clean visible mould without authorization, proper training and equipment

Orientation & Training

- Training in the safe work procedures required during the removal of mould
- Training in the use and maintenance of all PPE and equipment required to remove mould

Materials

- Hoarding and fans for cleanup
- Appropriate PPE

Non-Compliance/Breach:

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

Resources

- Facts about Mould <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/safety-in-the-workplace/hazards-and-prevention/chemicals-dangerous-goods-and-hazardous-substances>
- CCA 82 Mould Guidelines for the Canadian construction industry, 2004
<http://inonet.sktnhr.ca/fes/Documents/CCA82MouldGuidelines.pdf>

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

April 20, 2018