

antifreeze, synthetic polyester and resin, etc. Although ethylene glycol is a compound with low toxicity, cases concerning the damage of glycol to central nervous system and respiratory system occur frequently because of its widely use. Long-term exposure under the workplace air with ethylene glycol can lead to coma, heart-failure and even death. The recommended method for the determination of ethylene glycol in the air of workplace ruled in current standard of government (GBZ/T 160.48–2007) has a detection limit of 14 mg/m³. Considering the occupational exposure limit (PC-TWA) of ethylene glycol given by China's Ministry of Health is 20 mg/m³, there is a risk of 'once detection, beyond limit already'. So an improved method with higher sensitivity and lower detection limit should be established to meet the need of practical application.

Methods Ethylene glycol in the air of workplace was collected by solid sorbent tube containing silica gel and desorbed by solvent in the lab. The thus obtained sample was determined by capillary gas chromatography with FID detector. The performance of different kinds of desorption solvent and capillary column was investigated, and the condition of analysis was also optimised. Furthermore, the parameters of the improved method such as detection limit and precision were analysed.

Results As desorption solvent, methanol exhibited best performance with high desorption efficiency and equilibrium speed. And DB-WAXetr is the most suitable capillary column, as ethylene glycol showed stable retention time and sharp peak with good symmetry on it. The regression equation showed a good linear relationship in the range of 0.05–1.0 mg/mL. The detection limit of the method was 0.92 mg/m³ and the precision is 1.5%–4.2%.

Conclusion An improved method for the determination of ethylene glycol by capillary gas chromatography was developed. The method is simple, rapid and accurate with wide linear range. Compared with the traditional recommended method, the sensitivity of the novel method was greatly improved with a much lower detection limit of 0.92 mg/m³. The new method is more suitable and reliable for the determination of ethylene glycol in the air of workplace.

43 INDOOR AIR CONDITIONS OF OFFICE ROOM IN WINTER

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The climate in Japan is generally cool/dry in winter and hot/humid in summer. Winter season is from December to February in Japan. January is the coldest month. We measured indoor air conditions; air temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide (CO₂) during 12 months at the office room of one manufacturing industry (800 workers). The office hour at this office is from 8:30 to 17:30. Average mean value (\pm standard deviation) of room air temperature in January was 20.3 \pm 3.1°C, humidity was 32.8% \pm 3.5% and CO₂ was 924.5 \pm 478.2 ppm. Average room air temperature at office hour was 24.0 \pm 0.8°C, maxi/mini air temperatures were 25.1/22.2°C, average humidity was 38.8% \pm 2.5%, maxi/mini humidity was 41.3/33.7% and average CO₂ was 1350.9 \pm 228.3 ppm, maxi/mini CO₂ were 1563/792 ppm. Setting room air temperature of 25°C comprised the highest frequency at air conditioners at this office. Regarding the recommend levels for air conditions in office buildings, air temperature is 17°28°C, relative humidity is 40°70% and CO₂ is 1000 ppm during all seasons. As

Conclusion, the room air temperatures at office hour were rather high and humidity levels were low. We recommend setting room air temperature level for energy conservation and health is 17°20° C, and humidity is about 50% in winter.

492 FRAGRANCES/ODOURS IN INDOOR AIR AND HEALTH EFFECTS?

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Introduction On-line interviews of the general population have shown excessive prevalence of health effects stipulated to be caused by inhalation of fragrances, e.g. from consumer products.

Method Four major abundant and common airborne fragrances in indoor air have been reviewed. Their impact on perceived indoor air quality, sensory irritation effects, and sensitisation in the eyes and airways has been assessed. Further, effects on breathing pattern, cardiovascular system, work performance, and the impact in the airways by ozone-initiated fragrance reactions have been reviewed.

Results Maximum reported indoor concentrations of the fragrances are close to their odour thresholds. The concentrations are orders of magnitude lower than their thresholds for sensory irritation. Risk values for long-term effects are also above reported indoor concentrations. Human exposure studies and supported by animal inhalation models do not support sensitisation of the airways at indoor levels. Effects on the breathing rate and mood are inconclusive. Some fragrances may increase the high-frequency heart rate variability, but reduction may occur by aerosol exposure during cleaning activities. Distractive effects that influence the work performance are consistently reported, but their persistence is unknown. There is insufficient information that ozone-initiated reactions with fragrances cause airway effects at indoor levels; contrary, beneficial effects in sensitised animals have been observed.

Discussion Common health effects obtained from on-line interviews are inconsistent with experimental data. In general, lung function and sensory effects are likely due to the 'odour' perception rather than toxic effects of the fragrances. Furthermore, sensitisation by inhalation is not supported by animal studies. The substantial discrepancy between the high prevalence of reported health effects as opposed to lack of experimental support is a continuing challenge; strategies to solve this should be developed, e.g. targeted information about volatile organic compounds and their health effects in indoor air.

77 EVALUATING AMBIENT AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLDS IN A METRO MANILA COMMUNITY AFTER A BELOW GROUND PETROLEUM PIPELINE SPILL

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Introduction First Philippines Industrial Corporation (FPIC) owns an underground petroleum pipeline bringing refined petroleum products to a depot in MetroManila. In 2010, an