

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## Environmental Technology Verification Program



### Pilot Program for Indoor Air Products

#### ETV Goal

To verify the environmental performance characteristics of commercial-ready technologies through evaluation of objective and quality assured data so that potential purchasers are provided with an independent and credible assessment of what they are buying.

#### Indoor Air Pollution

Because people spend as much as 90% of their time indoors, EPA is concerned about the quality of the air in buildings. Indoor air pollution may be generated inside the building or may come from outside. Sources inside include combustion sources, heating and cooling systems, building materials, furnishings, office equipment, appliances, products used for cleaning and personal care, and activities such as smoking.

#### How the Indoor Air Product Pilot Works

This pilot is a partnership with the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). RTI has organized stakeholder groups for the first two target industries, with others to be organized within the next year. Current stakeholders include industry, government and other customers, government agencies, American Lung Association, and testing laboratories. Where appropriate, trade associations and professional societies are invited to partner in a validation area to obtain input from small businesses and a wide range of stakeholders. The stakeholder groups provide technical input to the process. The testing protocols are published as EPA documents.

#### Verification Areas

##### Commercial Furniture

State and federal governments have required emissions testing data for bids to supply office furniture to new office buildings. While similar, the test protocols used are not identical. A stakeholder group worked with RTI to develop a single test protocol based on the best current information. This would reduce the effort required by purchasing organizations to prepare specifications, reduce duplication of testing, and improve the quality of information available to the purchasing community. The draft protocol was completed in September 1997 and is currently being reviewed. Verification testing will begin in mid 1998.

##### Ventilation Air Filters

Particulate matter is a pollutant that can be removed by filters and air cleaners. Because of health concerns, EPA has proposed a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sub-2.5  $\mu$ m particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is currently balloting on Proposed Standard 52.2P Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size. General ventilation filters are used in central heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems in residential and commercial buildings. RTI is working with a stakeholder group to define a testing protocol based on the ASHRAE 52.2P method. A pilot test has been run and verification testing is expected to begin by mid 1998.

For additional information on this ETV Pilot, please contact:



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