In the USA, public employers must comply with the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) standard. This standard sets requirements for indoor air quality (IAQ). Public employers shall:

- **Complaints**: Promptly investigate employee complaints that may be associated with building-related illness or sick-building syndrome.

- **Mold**: Promptly repair water leaks and dry, replace, or clean damp or wet materials within 48 hours of discovery and continue until water intrusion is eliminated. Remove visible mold and mildew from ventilation system components such as drip pans and surfaces such as carpeting and ceiling tiles.

- **Temperature**: Check and repair the ventilation system to ensure it is working properly when indoor temperatures are below 68 or above 79 degrees Fahrenheit.

- **Fresh Air**: Check and repair the ventilation system to ensure it is working properly when carbon dioxide levels exceed 1,000 parts per million (ppm). Relocate fresh air intakes if contamination of fresh air intakes from cooling towers, sanitary vents, vehicle exhaust, or other pollutants cannot be eliminated.

- **Renovation and Construction Work**: Notify employees at least 24 hours in advance, or promptly in an emergency, of work to be performed on the building that may introduce air contaminants. Isolate and ventilate renovation areas in occupied buildings and confine dust and debris to the area. Clean and air out renovation areas in occupied buildings before reoccupancy by employees.

- **Chemical Exposure**: Use hazard information on labels and Material Safety Data Sheets to select products and control measures used in renovation and construction.

- **Windows**: Ensure that windows, doors, vents, stacks and other openings used to allow natural ventilation are in operable condition in buildings without mechanical ventilation.

- **Ventilation Maintenance**: Replace or repair damaged or inoperable parts of the ventilation system. Establish and follow a preventive maintenance schedule to check, lubricate, and ensure all parts are in operating order. Keep maintenance records for three years and make them available no later than 10 days after request by employees or their representatives.

- **Designated Person**: Designate a person responsible for compliance with the IAQ standard and ensure that he or she is familiar with its requirements.

- **Written Program**: Have an up-to-date plan for complying with the IAQ standard. Make it available no later than 10 days after request by employees or their representatives.

Complete standard at [www.state.nj.us/health/eho/peoshweb/iaqstd.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eho/peoshweb/iaqstd.pdf)
The New Jersey Work Environment Council (WEC) is an alliance of labor, community, and environmental organizations working together for safe, secure jobs, and a healthy, sustainable environment.

For more information, go to www.njwec.org or call (609) 695-7100. For complete information on the PEOSH IAQ standard go to www.state.nj.us/health/ehp/peoshweb/peoshiaq.htm © WEC 2008.

Do you work in a sick building?

Dampness? Mold? NO FRESH AIR?

Too hot? Too cold?

Public employees and their unions can INSIST that public employers comply with the PEOSH Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Standard!