NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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September 13, 2002

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Director, Environmental Health and Safety
New York City Department of Education
28-11 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Air Sampling for Hydrocarbons
P. S. 42M
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0342

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of the results of air sampling for volatile hydrocarbon compounds conducted on September 4, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) requested this sampling prior to the resumption of classes to verify that acceptable indoor air quality is being maintained.

Scope of Work

ATC collected three (3) samples for hydrocarbon compounds (HC) at specified locations. Samples were collected for ten (10) hours using activated coconut shell charcoal tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps at a flow rate of 0.2 liters per minute. Pumps were calibrated before and after each sampling period. One blank tube was also submitted. The samples were sent to PSC Analytical Services, Inc., an American Industrial Hygiene Association-accredited laboratory in Reading, PA. Analysis was performed by capillary gas chromatography/flame ionization detection (OSHA Method 7).

Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienist and Yannis Efstathiou, Project Manager from ATC's New York City office, conducted the sampling consistent with accepted industrial hygiene practices. The results represent conditions on the day the samples were collected.

Each sample was analyzed for a panel of sixteen (16) specific HC compounds. These compounds were: pentane, acetone, methylene chloride, hexane, chloroform, methyl chloroform, benzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, trichloroethylene, toluene, perchloroetyhylene (tetrachloroethylene), chlorobenzene, ethylbenzene, styrene, cumene and xylenes. In addition, two non-identified peaks, total other A-hydrocarbons and total other B-hydrocarbons, were reported. The A-hydrocarbons are those, such as gasoline or light alcohols, with boiling points less than that of benzene (176°F). The B-hydrocarbons are those, such as mineral spirits or petroleum naphtha, with boiling points greater than that of benzene. A copy of the analytical laboratory report is attached.

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The sampling locations were as follows:

1st Floor Main Lobby, 2nd Floor Hallway by Room 207 and 3rd Floor Hallway by Room 309.

Results

The hydrocarbons detected in the analyte panel were A-Hydrocarbons and B-Hydrocarbons. A-Hydrocarbons were detected at concentration of 0.064 parts per million (ppm) in the sample collected from the 2nd Floor Hallway by Room 207. B-Hydrocarbons were detected at concentration of 0.053 ppm and 0.062 ppm in the samples collected from the 1st Floor Main Lobby and 3rd Floor Hallway by Room 309 respectively.

The presence of these two analytes in the samples cannot be linked to any specific activity in the building, it may be trace contaminants from outdoors. No specific source has been identified.

No other HCs in the panel were present in the samples above the limits of detection for the analyses.

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor air quality service to the DOE. Please call (212) 353-8280 extension 370 or 212 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
ATC Associates, Inc.

Tenzin Namgyal
Industrial Hygienist

Reviewed by:

James R. Cohn, CIH, CSP
Regional Manager
Industrial Hygiene Division

Attachment

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