NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC

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September 9, 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. 1M
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0340

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 August 27, 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 Jimmy Choy, Environmental Technician 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 213 and 4th Floor Hallway by Room 403

Results

The only hydrocarbons in the analyte panel detected in the samples were acetone and Xylene. Acetone was found in the sample collected from the 4th floor hallway by room 403 and Xylene was found in the sample collected from the main lobby The concentrations are shown in the table.

ACETONE CONCENTRATIONS
March 13, 2002

LOCATION SAMPLE NO.	ACETONE (ppm)*	XYLENE (ppm)*
Hallway by Room 403 VOC 3	**0.088**	BDL**
Main Lobby VOC1	BDL	**0.18**

* parts per million
** Below Detection Limit

Acetone is a common solvent in a variety of industrial processes and is the principal component nail polish remover. It has occasionally been detected in indoor samples, however a specific source has not been identified in this case

Xylene is another solvent frequently found in paints and coatings. Its presence in the Main Lobby sample cannot be linked to any specific activity in the building, it may be a trace contaminant from outdoors.

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 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

NYC-WTC_000239687