



**NRC-CNRC**

Institute for  
Research in  
Construction

Bringing quality  
to the  
built environment

## **Assessing Health Risks from Organic Chemicals in Indoor Air**

### **Objectives**

To rate various chemical contaminants in indoor air in terms of their potential effect on the health of occupants and to develop strategies to maintain their concentrations at acceptable levels.

### **Background**

It has long been known that there are many air pollutants in both the workplace and the home. Volatile organic compounds have been the main focus of research for some time partly because of their high concentrations. As new classes of products and materials such as flame-retardants and plasticizers have come into use, it is important to identify other pollutants that may affect human health.

### **Statement of Work**

- Review the existing literature to collect relevant information
- Develop, using a consensus approach, a list of contaminants worthy of attention and the acceptable concentrations for each.
- Identify knowledge gaps and develop strategies to fill the gaps.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Practical information on contaminants for both residential and office environments.
- Consensus-based guideline on acceptable concentrations for a target list of contaminants.
- Checklist for managing these target contaminants.
- Research agenda for health-relevant contaminants.

### **Start/Completion Dates**

The project began in 2004 and is expected to be completed in 2006.

### **Project Manager**

Dr. Doyun Won: 613-993-9538; Doyun.Won@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

For more information, see [http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ie/iaq/factsheet10\\_e.html](http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ie/iaq/factsheet10_e.html)

*Factsheet 10, February 2005*



National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national  
de recherches Canada

Canada