



Clark Seif Clark is pleased to bring environmental, health & safety and information about building sciences to thousands of professionals each month. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Thermal Imaging Cameras Provide Important Answers during IAQ Investigations

Thermal imaging cameras have found many uses since their inception. These specialized cameras are used by professionals ranging from firefighters and power line technicians to IAQ professionals and energy efficiency auditors. Thermal imaging is commonly used today for HVAC assessments, building inspections and flood restoration responses.

The infrared (IR) camera is a valuable tool in the hands of an experienced thermographer. Wet building materials can often be identified using infrared imaging, or thermography. Thermography is the use of an infrared imaging camera to "see" thermal energy emitted and/or reflected from an object.

Infrared cameras produce images of invisible infrared or "heat" radiation. Because they tend to be cooler or warmer than surrounding dry building materials, wet-building materials can often be distinguished in an infrared image. Thermography is useful in identifying wetted materials, which are not conducive to a visual assessment or a moisture meter survey, such as on carpeting, drapery, elevated ceilings, high walls and more.

Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of building science and indoor air quality consulting services, has extensive expertise in utilizing infrared cameras during building investigations. "CSC utilizes thermography as another tool to help save our client time and money by quickly identifying and quantifying the extent of water intrusion into structures," reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC. "IR technology is also a powerful instrument for identifying sagging insulation, verifying framing nailing schedules, locating leaking HVAC supply ducts, tracing hot water lines, determining transformer oil levels and so much more."

To learn more about how CSC can put the power of IR cameras to help resolve IAQ and building science issues please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

PCB Dangers Persist in Some Older Structures

PCBs belong to a broad family of man-made organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. They were domestically manufactured from 1929 until their ban in 1979. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website, "Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point, and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications including electrical, heat transfer, and hydraulic equipment; as plasticizers in paints, plastics, and rubber products; in pigments, dyes, and carbonless copy paper; and many other industrial applications."

Although no longer commercially produced in the United States, PCBs may still be present in products and materials produced before the 1979 ban. Last year the EPA released new guidance regarding PCBs in caulk from buildings constructed or renovated between 1950 and 1978. The EPA recommends testing for PCBs in peeling, brittle, cracking or deteriorating caulk in buildings, especially in school environments.

Due to their chemical structure, PCBs do not readily break down and therefore may remain for long periods of time cycling between air, water and soil. PCBs have been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems.

Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of environmental and indoor air quality (IAQ) consulting services, has broad expertise in dealing with PCBs in indoor environments. Decades after their ban PCBs are still a potential health hazard. Testing for their presence in older structures will determine if there is an exposure risk to building occupants.

To learn more about how CSC can help with PCB or other environmental concerns please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.

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