

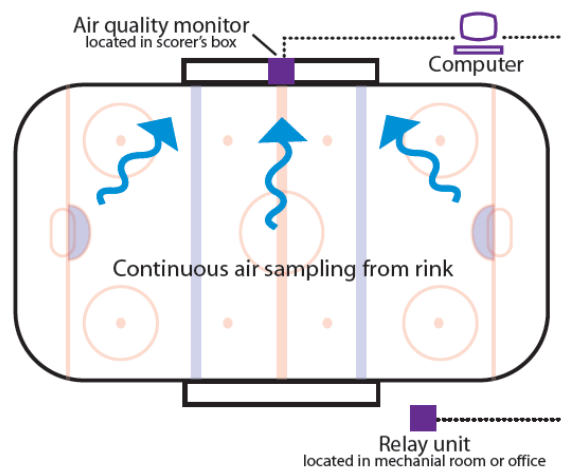
## Issue 2

December 2010

### Wireless IAQ Profile Monitor system used at ice rinks to monitor levels of harmful pollutants.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is a significant concern in ice rinks and arenas; these facilities are especially vulnerable to the affect of an unhealthy indoor environment as fuel-burning equipment such as ice resurfaces are used indoors.

PPM and our partner in the United States, Joel Anderson of *Precision Quality Consulting* have supplied a number of **Mini IAQ Profile Monitor** units to various ice rinks/arenas with the aim of providing a safe environment for users and employees of ice arenas. Regulations and guidelines regarding the emission of pollutants in ice rinks/arenas have been introduced at local and state level in many US states and a number of Canadian provinces.



The parameters commonly monitored in ice rinks/arenas are temperature, relative humidity and also carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide both these pollutants are released from the ice re-surfacing vehicle.

The monitoring unit is installed in the ice rinks 'scorer's box'; the monitor continuously receives air samples from the rink, readings are transmitted in real-time to the office computer which stores the readings on easily read graphs.

Multiple alarm levels are available to activate exhaust fans, dehumidification systems, or signal an auto dialer. Energy savings can be achieved by operating the exhaust system more efficiently.

### Dubai trade mission

PPM Technology's Managing Director John B Jones has recently returned from Dubai, the trip was part of a trade mission with International Business Wales (IBW) and the Welsh Assembly Government. John met with our distributor in the region Green Eco and also demonstrated our instruments to existing and prospective customers in Dubai and Abu Dhabi; John is very optimistic there will be excellent opportunities for our products in the region.

(Photo) Hazel Villote and Viren Sharma of Green Eco with the PPMonitor units



If you have any relevant stories, including any recent or upcoming exhibitions, application stories or customer testimonials that you want to be included in the next newsletter please feel free to contact us:

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## Tender for 80 htV-M instruments won in Chinese province.

Our Partner in China – *Science International* have recently won a tender from a Chinese province for 80 **Formaldemeter htV-M** instruments.

The *htV-m* can be used as a manual handheld meter and as a continuous monitoring data logger, it is available with 3 configurable memory options; the minimum available is 2000 samples, normal is 6000 and maximum available is over 14000 samples, it can monitor the formaldehyde level, temperature, humidity, time and date in real time for up to one month.

Sixty of units are going to be dispatched before Christmas whilst the remaining twenty will be sent early next year. This is the largest ever order received for the *htv-m*, we hope it will be the first of many large tenders won in China and elsewhere in future years.



## France proposes new cancer classification for formaldehyde.

The French government has submitted a proposal to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) requesting the classification of formaldehyde be upgraded to a category one carcinogen. The dossier concerning formaldehyde is currently being processed, if it is accepted by the Member State Committee (MSC) for consideration, a public consultation will follow and could start by the end of the year or early 2011.

Presently at EU level the substance is classed as a category 3 carcinogen under the old Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD), which is being progressively replaced by CLP legislation. A category 1 or 2 classification under the DSD or a 1A or 1B classification under CLP would have significant implications for use of formaldehyde.

In July 2009, the European Federation of Building and Wood Workers (EFBWW) and the European Furniture Manufacturers Federation adopted a statement in which they requested the EU to legislate on formaldehyde.

France's National Research and Safety Institute (INRS) estimates that over a million European workers are exposed to formaldehyde to some degree or other.

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## Emergency accommodation trailers with high levels of Formaldehyde still in use.

Trailers used as emergency accommodation including some used following Hurricane Katrina in the United States, were found to have dangerously high levels of Formaldehyde.

Many families displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 were initially housed in 120,000 trailers issued by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), they were found to contain high levels of Formaldehyde following complaints from occupants -



At the request of FEMA, the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) tested 520 occupied manufactured housing units from Dec. 21 through Jan. 23 2008. The average levels of formaldehyde found in all trailer units were about 77 parts per billion - a level higher than U.S. background levels. And that exposure "over time at that level" can affect health. Levels measured ranged from 3 ppb to 590 ppb.

Despite this discovery the trailers are still in use today, it is claimed the temporary accommodation is being used to house emergency workers following the BP oil spill. On the discovery of the high levels of Formaldehyde FEMA auctioned the trailers to the general public. They were subsequently purchased by individuals and companies, including some contracting firms who are now involved in the oil spill cleanup.

Although FEMA placed restrictions on the use of the trailers as housing and required that subsequent owners be informed that the trailers are not intended for housing, cleanup workers are reportedly living in the trailers unaware of the health risks they face.

## ASHRAE grant to target indoor air quality in large retail stores.

ASHRAE (*American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers*) have been awarded a \$1.5 million dollar grant to investigate air quality and ventilation rates in retail spaces. There is little published information about air quality in retail spaces, due to the fact that requirements have mainly been based on data for commercial office buildings.

The project will create a database of IAQ, ventilation, occupant surveys and building measurements for the U.S. The database will then be used to determine the relationship between ventilation rates and indoor air quality and the resulting occupant satisfaction. The project's ultimate goal being to recommend appropriate minimum ventilation rates for different categories and locations of retail establishments. This contributes to improving the energy efficiency of ventilation systems in retail stores while maintaining air quality.

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