

PERCEPTION OF THE WORKER ON AIR QUALITY IN A SEASON OF PRE-CONDITIONING OF ESGOTO, FORTALEZA, CEARÁ

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ABSTRACT

A Sewage Preconditioning Station – SPS is an operation unity that treats the effluents produced by the population through chemical, physical, or biological processes. Thus, some pollutants are scattered in the air, making these places propitious to the easy dispersion of contaminants by the atmospheric circulations, with potential to affect the health of its employees. Meanwhile, the objective was to analyze the employees' knowledge about the air quality of a SPS in the city of Fortaleza, Ceará. For the data collection, the workers answered survey built with the Likert scale with 5 items and open questions, aiming to verify the attitudes and know the degree of conformity in the quality of the air. The research obeyed the ethical precepts of Resolution 466/2012 of the National Health Council. In total, 28 respondents participated in the survey, 96% men and 4% women, whom worked in sectors that need personal protective equipment, such as semi-facial masks of the PFF2 type due to the strong odor, when asked about this attitude, 90% stated they use daily. Regarding the air quality, 61% complained of the presence of unpleasant but acceptable odors, 32% reported fetid odors and 7% did not report the presence of odors. These data showed the individual capacity in front of the olfactory perception and reinforces the ergonomic premise that the sense of smell can be able to cause changes in the behavior of the work; therefore, its perception must be more reported and explored in the studies. Additionally, the difference in air quality between the rainy season and the dry season was reported, in which approximately 61% of them noticed an alteration, as in reporting that in the rainy season the sectors become wet/uncomfortable. About the Sick Building Syndrome – SBS, 82% were unaware of the concept, being a concern, since lack of information and lack of knowledge about SBS and its consequences makes employees generally not concerned about air quality because the causes are invisible and apparently harmless elements. In addition, the symptoms of this syndrome contribute to the unproductivity at work. The results indicate the knowledge fragility of the workers about the air they breathe. Then, in order to build coherent and effective environmental health policies it is necessary to continue with well-designed studies on the relationship between air quality and worker health, with a management that seeks greater dissemination of the issue in occupational settings.

Keywords: Worker, Odor Quality, air.

Development Agency: UECE Microbiology Laboratory