

How to Talk to Your Industrial Hygienist

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By Royal Charter

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When is a good time to talk to your industrial hygienist?

Anytime

In reality...

- Your IH is contacted when there is an incident or problem
- Reactive
- Investigate
- For compliance



How to Have a Successful Interaction with Your Industrial Hygienist

What your IH needs from you

- SDSs
- Equipment/Machines used in the process
- Procedures or JHAs
- Controls in place
- Copy of your Hearing Conservation Program and Respiratory Protection Program
- Walk-through of the work environment (if possible)
- Talk to your employees
- Date to conduct the assessment

Understanding from the IH

- Client/Company is coming to you for help
- May not be familiar with IH concepts
- May not understand the:
 - Preparation needed
 - Equipment/methods being used
- Need to explain to:
 - Management
 - Employees participating
 - Limitations of equipment and sampling

• **Grab Sample**

- Is collected at one location and at one point in time
- Direct-read or air collected in Tedlar bag
- Common in environmental samples

• **Area Sample**

- Uses the same equipment and media as a personal sample
- In a fixed area

• **Personal Sample**

- Employees wear a sampling device, like a pump
- Evaluates worker exposure

Air Quality Sample

What your IH thinks you mean when you say “Air Quality Sample”

- Usually indoor
- Testing foreign agent in a building
 - CO2
 - VOC
 - Formaldehyde
 - Radon
 - Mold/Biological
- Not a personal sample for exposure required by a regulation
- Investigation

Types of sampling equipment



Qualitative vs Quantitative

Qualitative

- Like a risk assessment
- No samples are taken
- Uses the recognition step of the ARECC

Quantitative

- Takes actual samples and gives data
- You are measuring X
- Can be area or personal
- Can tell you if your employees overexposed or not

Keep in mind

- Communication is key
- Be open
- Empathetic
- Ask question if you do not understand
- Do not be scared

Questions?

Contact BSI for more information

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The logo consists of the lowercase letters 'bsi.' in a white, sans-serif font. A small red dot is positioned at the end of the period.