

GUIDELINES, INTERNATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS ON INDOOR AIR QUALITY**M. Krzyzanowski***WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn Office, Bonn, Germany*

Indoor air quality and prevention of health effects from exposures indoors is still a difficult area for public health intervention and require a wide set of tools. The most general guidelines on indoor air quality refer to the right of each individual to healthy indoor air and are linked to the fundamental principles in the fields of human rights, biomedical ethics and ecological sustainability (<http://www.euro.who.int/document/e69828.pdf>). More technical are the Air Quality Guidelines, published by the World Health Organization, which assess health hazards of many of the air pollutants occurring indoors, both due to the emission from indoor sources and due to their infiltration from outdoors. The Guidelines, as well as some of the relevant Environmental Health Criteria documents published by the International Programme on Chemical Safety, provide the background for development of the air quality standards or norms. However, there are numerous constraints why the regulatory approaches used in ambient air quality management, such as air quality standards, cannot be fully used to regulate air quality indoors. Building codes, control of emission from building equipment and products used indoors, are more common tools for indoor air quality management. Information to the public, influencing individual behaviour, is also introduced as a part of the national or regional public health actions aiming at prevention of risks of indoor air pollution to health.