



# The Air Quality Reporter

*"Certifying The Quality of Your Indoor Environment"*

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## HUD Considers Stronger Rules on Air Safety in Trailers"

**Jackson Clarion-Ledger (MS) (03/01/08) Radelat, Ana**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may impose stronger rules governing formaldehyde emissions in mobile homes, in response to indoor air quality tests involving trailers occupied by families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention performed air quality tests on trailers in Mississippi and Louisiana, encouraging residents to spend "as much time outdoors in fresh air as possible" after tests revealed high levels of formaldehyde in the indoor air. Under existing HUD regulations, the level of formaldehyde in mobile homes cannot exceed 0.2 parts per million from plywood and 0.3 parts per million from particleboard. The current rules do not cover formaldehyde emissions from carpets, glue, and furniture. HUD spokesman Lemar Wooley says the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee will help create the new rules, which will lower formaldehyde emissions from flooring and institute a new standard for emissions from cabinets. Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency says residents displaced in future disasters will be housed in pre-fabricated "Katrina Cottages" and modular homes complying with stringent indoor air quality regulations.

## Bill on Hurricane Inspections Advances"

**South Florida Sun-Sentinel (03/05/08)**

The Florida Senate Banking and Insurance Committee passed the My Safe Florida Homes program on March 4. It will provide grants for hurricane mitigation inspections and bolstering home protections against storms. Insurance carriers are required to accept uniform documents regarding inspections so homeowners can obtain discounts on their insurance premiums. The bill also calls for the Florida Department of Financial Services to approve contractors after evaluating them, which means stricter standards for those inspectors. Homeowners who are low-income or have a home valued at less than \$300,000 are eligible for the grants.

## Fighting MRSA With Conventional Thinking"

**Cleaning & Maintenance Management (02/08) Vol. 45, No. 2, Guidotti, Tee L.**

Cleaning professionals should understand the importance of proper sanitization in hospital settings to prevent the spread of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). According to Dr. Tee Guidotti of George Washington University's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, the bacteria lives for quite awhile on floors, beds, and hospital equipment. Given that MRSA is found in and on radiators, furniture, door handles, televisions, floors, towels, and the noses and hands of patients and hospital workers, proper cleaning is crucial in preventing recontamination. Bedding and clothes should be washed with a detergent at temperatures between 40 and 60 degrees Celsius, and shared medical equipment, doorknobs, and other items also should be disinfected. With regard to carpets, upholstered furniture, and other textiles, experts recommend that vacuums with HEPA or micron filters be used to remove dust. Research shows that all-purpose cleaning cloths used in conjunction with quaternary ammonium disinfectants are more effective than cleaning cloths used with hot water or bleach. Natural disinfectants, such as vinegar, were found to be less effective in killing MRSA than cleaning products containing hypochlorite, phenolic, and quaternary ammonium compounds.