

Ozone Generators Used for the Purpose of Indoor Air Cleaning

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Functional Sub group Population Health - Environmental
Population Health - Cleaning
Personnel/Workforce - Occupational Health & Safety

Summary Use of ozone generators for air cleaning purposes must not be used in health facilities because of the potential health effects to the staff and public and health facilities should make alternative arrangements to improve indoor air quality.

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, Public Health System Support Division, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, NSW Dept of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Audience Administration, Facility Managers

Distributed to Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Divisions of General Practice, Environmental Health Officers of Local Councils, Government Medical Officers, Health Professional Associations and Related Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Private Nursing Homes

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Director-General

Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

OZONE GENERATORS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDOOR AIR CLEANING

It has come to the Department of Health's attention that ozone generators are being promoted as a method to clean indoor air and reduce odours. Distributors may target hospitals, childcare and aged care facilities as a potential market.

Health care facilities must not use ozone generators for air cleaning purposes as there are potential health risks associated with this product and facility managers should make alternative arrangements to improve air quality if necessary.

Staff and the public may suffer adverse health effects from exposure to ozone from air cleaners that intentionally generate ozone gas. Ozone is a toxic gas that irritates the nose, throat and lungs, and exposure can cause cough, shortness of breath and may worsen chronic respiratory diseases. Long-term exposure to ozone may irreversibly impair a person's respiratory capacity. The elderly, children and asthmatics are more susceptible to the effects of ozone exposure.

Available scientific literature shows that at concentrations below health protection exposure limits ozone has no potential to remove indoor air pollutants and odours.

It is recommended that licensed private hospitals have regard to this Policy Directive and review existing policies and procedures as appropriate. Alternative arrangements to improve air quality could include pollutant source control and proper design, operation and maintenance of building ventilation.

Ozone can be safely and effectively used in water purification.

Robyn Kruk
Director-General