

health effects should substantially decline,” says Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe. “WHO will continue encouraging the relevant policy developments and the intersectoral collaboration necessary for ensuring access to healthy indoor air for everyone.”

The guidelines are targeted at public health professionals involved in preventing the health risks of environmental exposures, as well as at specialists and authorities involved in the design and use of buildings, indoor materials and products. This volume is the second in a series, following the 2009 book on dampness and mould, and anticipates further work to address household fuel combustion.

The nine substances considered in this review are common indoor air pollutants globally and are just a few of the many chemicals encountered in indoor spaces. They were selected for this review based on the existence of their indoor sources, the availability of evidence on their health effects, and their common presence in concentrations of health concern. Based on the accumulated science, experts formulated health risk evaluations and agreed on the guidelines for each of the pollutants (see fact sheet).

Problems of indoor air quality are important health risk factors in low-, middle- and high-income countries. Population groups in residences, day-care centres and retirement homes are particularly vulnerable to indoor air pollution due to their health status or age. The guidelines are intended to address various levels of economic development, cover all relevant population groups, and allow feasible approaches to reducing health risks from exposure to the selected pollutants in various regions of the world.

“Public health awareness of indoor air pollution has lagged behind that of outdoor air pollution. The new guidelines now provide clear reference criteria to reduce the health risks from indoor exposure to air pollutants in all regions of the world and at all levels of economic development,” concludes Dr Michal Krzyzanowski, leader of the WHO project to draw up the guidelines.

For more information, please visit the web site of the WHO Regional Office for Europe:

- *WHO guidelines for indoor air quality: selected pollutants*
(http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/128169/e94535.pdf)
- *WHO guidelines for indoor air quality: dampness and mould*
(http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/43325/E92645.pdf)
- Air quality (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environmental-health/air-quality>)

Russian, French and German versions of this press release will be available on the WHO Regional Office for Europe web site soon.

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