

PIKE SYSTEMS, INC.

NEWSLETTER

August 15th, 2007

PHONE: 630-896-6373

Volume 5, Issue 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Green Cleaning Schools Update	2
Handwashing Quiz	2
Green Cleaning Facts	2

Upcoming Events

Open House—September 20, 2007

Team Cleaning for Enhanced Labor
Deployment—October 18, 2007

Classroom Cleaning for Increased Health
and Attendance—November 14, 2007

Carpet Care for Increased IAQ—
December 6, 2007



Pike Systems, Inc.

1770 Commerce Drive

Montgomery, Illinois 60538

Ph: 630-896-6373

Fax: 630-896-7199

E-mail: ctiedt@pikeystems.com

5 Myths of Quiet Equipment

Before you hop on the bandwagon, know the facts about quiet equipment. These myths typically center around sound safety, decibels/noise, and sound distractions. Quiet equipment boasts benefits such as safety, improved IAQ, and unobtrusive operations when cleaning is conducted during business hours; however, confusion surrounding this category of equipment has blurred the facts.

Myth #1—Cleaning equipment is loud enough to cause hearing damage: Most cleaning equipment is not harmful. OSHA provides a 90 db short term exposure threshold and an 85 db limit for use up to 8 hours per day.

Myth #2—Decibel numbers from manufacturers are a good way to compare equipment noise levels or loudness: Manufacturers have a variety of ways of measuring and reporting decibels and there is no industry-wide consensus or regulatory standard as to how this should be done making it very difficult to compare decibels levels on different pieces of equipment.

Myth #3—Decibels tell the whole story: According to Appliance Magazine, “sound quality is not just about whether a product is noisy. It is also about the quality of the noise that is being produced. A product that produces a whine can still be problematic, even if the whine is relatively quiet.” The bottom-line: decibels only tell part of the story.

Myth #4—The decibel level is the best way to determine whether or not a sound is distracting: People hear and react to sounds differently. Therefore, irritation as a result of noise, is personal and subjective.

Myth #5—The sound of equipment never varies and cannot be controlled: Equipment sounds differ depending on the operating conditions and the surrounding environment. If a vacuum is clogged, the sound will become high pitched as a result of the motor’s increase in speed.

About Pike Systems, Inc.

In today’s business environment, every facility is being faced with cleanliness challenges. Just having the right chemicals and equipment isn’t enough. It’s knowing how to integrate chemicals, equipment, and people to your individual facility and knowing how to train your staff to do it the right way. Pike Systems, Inc. can help you with this process. The following are some of our recommendations to help you reduce the overall costs of your Custodial Budget. As a Pike Systems customer, you will receive the following value-added services:

- ◆ Working with a supplier who will do more than deliver product to your door.
- ◆ Reduction in the number of chemicals and supplies used.
- ◆ Installation of proportioning systems that provide safe, consistent use of chemicals and control chemical usage.
- ◆ Standardization of procedures so all staff members are working in the most efficient, effective manner as true industry professionals.
- ◆ Establishment of an ongoing training program for your staff.

Making these types of improvements will not happen with conventional distributors. It takes a company like Pike Systems, whose focus is on the customer and the customer’s individual needs, to make it happen.

Green Cleaning Schools Act—Update

What is Green Cleaning?

As defined by Stephen Ashkin of the Ashkin Group, LLC: Green Cleaning is defined as “cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.”

What will this act do?

This act will require all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois to purchase only environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies.

Who defines “environmentally sensitive?”

The Illinois Green Government Council is tasked with establishing the guidelines, along with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Offices of Education, Illinois State Board of Education and a panel of interested stakeholders, including cleaning industry representatives and non-governmental organizations.

Do I need to throw away my existing cleaning products?

No, you don't need to throw away your existing inventory of supplies. This law specifically states that “a school may deplete its existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks and implement the new requirements in the procurement cycle for the following school year.”

What about recycled paper? Will this be required?

While a complete green cleaning program should include strategies to reduce waste and increase the use of recycled materials, this law does not require the use of recycled paper products. However, many cleaning distributors will work with schools to develop strategies to cut paper usage and implement a recycled paper strategy that can actually cut paper costs, while helping to protect the environment.

What about disinfectants?

Currently, there are few “green” standards for disinfectants. The intent of this law is to establish a process in which current standards and practices, including disinfectant usage, can be reviewed and adopted. As green products and guidelines evolve, the taskforce will annually update their guidelines to take into account new information and innovations in the field.

When is this going into effect?

While no dates are set in stone, the Healthy Schools Campaign believes that this law will be fully implemented by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. A current best-information timeline is below:

- ◆ Governor signs the bill (estimated as August 14, 2007)
- ◆ 180 days after signing (February of 2008) - IL Green Government coordinating Council shall establish “guidelines and specifications for environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products for use in school facilities.”
- ◆ 90 Days after Guidelines are Established (May, 2008) - Elementary and secondary public schools shall establish a green cleaning policy and exclusively purchase and use environmentally-sensitive cleaning products.

Information courtesy of The Healthy Schools Campaign—Green Clean Schools Act HB895 IL95GA, Updated August 1, 2007

Handwashing Quiz

According to the CDC, Handwashing is one of the “most important means of preventing the spread of infection.” What is your hand washing IQ? Take this quick quiz to find out!

1. Just rinsing hands with water will do the job!
True False
2. Using hot water will clean your hands best!
True False
3. I should wash for at least 15-20 seconds.
True False
4. I can wash only my palms and fingers and be ok.
True False

Answers:

1. False. You need soap to actually get rid of the germs on your skin.
2. False. Hot water is too uncomfortable and can make your skin rough and chapped. Warm water is best because you will wash longer.
3. True. Washing at least 15-20 seconds will remove most of the germs on your hands. Washing for less time than that won't remove enough germs.
4. False. Germs easily collect on other parts of your hands. Be sure to wash wrists, the backs of your hands, and under your finger nails.



Green Cleaning Facts

The financial benefits of Green Schools include (on a square foot basis):

- ◆ Energy costs reduced by \$9 per sq. ft.
- ◆ Water and wastewater savings of \$1 per sq. ft.
- ◆ A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, saving \$1 per sq. ft.
- ◆ Average Daily Attendance increase of 5 to 15 percent
- ◆ Increased Teacher retention, saving the district \$4 per sq. ft.
- ◆ A reduction in asthma and other respiratory illnesses, resulting in a savings of \$3 to \$5 per sq. ft.

“Do Green Schools Make Dollar Sense?” Scott Case. *Maintenance Supplies: Volume 52 No. 5. June 2007.*