



## Indoor Air Quality Improves NOI

Microscopic evaluation of unseen infectious agents using bioaerosol cultures has been a staple of testing in healthcare, food processing and pharmaceutical manufacturing for decades. Improvements in testing are coming that rely less on 5-day incubation and more on laser detection. Operating under the idea that immediate feedback is desirable, Ecostratum continues to improve its technical capabilities to measure “unseen” agents and provide results immediately. Whether your business is in the *Facilities Management* sector or *Patient Care* sector, the axiom holds, “if you don’t measure it, you can’t manage it.”

### “Endotoxin – What’s in Your Carpet?”

“What’s in your wallet?” Without question you are sure to know more about the answer to this question than the title question. Answer. Carpet dust provides an accurate historical record of events that occurred in your home or office long before you entered. The technology to measure allergens or toxins left in settled dust is environmental forensics. Sewage, water, humans and animals all leave their microbial “fingerprints” in carpet dust. Rather than visual deterioration or stains, Ecostratum believes that this technology will become the trigger for asset depreciation of textiles or upholstered furniture. Testing is simple, interpreting results requires skill and experience.

Tip 1: It’s time to check your cooling towers for legionella bacteria after a long hot summer. Chemical use accelerates with hot weather and disinfectants may no longer be active.

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## Healthcare Economics: Engineering Impact of USP 800

USP 800 <General Chapter 800 – Hazardous Drugs (HD)> is being implemented to improve hygiene where chemotherapy drugs (Antineoplastic) are made. The goal: minimize worker and environmental exposure. The improvements mirror concepts introduced two decades ago in the OSHA Process Safety Standard for *highly hazardous chemicals*, instead of drugs. Ecostratum has developed a simple code system to identify key elements of compliance. Feel free to use the codes below. We will continue to provide microscopic testing to validate performance.

Code	Exposure Control	How or What?
E1=Engineering	Containment Primary Engineering Control -C-PEC	hood with external exhaust
E2=Engineering	Containment Secondary Engineering Control Rm -C-SEC	room with air changes and depressurized
R1=Residues	Cleaning & Neutralization	benches or floors
C1=Compound	Depressurize, PPE & Cleanwipe	crushed dust ,aerosols,
P1= Patients	Universal Precautions	body fluids, waste, needle sharps

## Human Exoskeletons Coming

The potential for exoskeleton machines to lower risk of musculoskeletal injuries in the workplace is what makes them attractive from a health & safety perspective – and they look like super heros. Workers equipped with machine exoskeletons may reduce spinal compressive and shear forces while enhancing torque for lifting. The manufacturing and defense applications are obvious. The key is proper fit to minimizing risk of injury. The man-machine interface continues to be rethought as this technology comes online. Ecostratum constantly seeks to protect worker health by testing electromagnetism and noise exposure in this new frontier. FYI. Many surgeries are now performed robotically assisted



“A Higher Level of Thinking”. Technical developments are presented with a business case underpinning. Contact Steve Rucker at [srucker@ecostratum.com](mailto:srucker@ecostratum.com)