

AIR RENEWAL IN FRENCH SCHOOLS

ENVIRONMENT CODE APPLICABLE SINCE 2024

version 19 of 2025-09-18 available on letsair.org

Environment Code - Articles R221-30 through D221-38

Amended by Decree 2022-1689 of 12/27/2022

Requires indoor air quality to be monitored in some types of public buildings.

ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT

- Buildings must undergo an annual ventilation assessment, including a direct reading of the CO₂ concentration in the indoor air. The deadline for the first assessment is in 2024.
- A self-assessment of indoor air quality must be performed at least once every 4 years, the conditions for which are set by the ministers responsible for the environment, health and construction.
- A pollutant monitoring survey must be conducted at every major stage of a building's life cycle with potential impacts on indoor air quality.
- An action plan must be drawn up, factoring in the above 3 items.

Decree 2012-14 of 01/05/2012

Amended by Decree 2022-1690 of 12/27/2022

Details the ventilation assessment and pollutant measurements to be conducted for the purpose of monitoring indoor air quality in some types of public buildings.

AREAS CONCERNED

- Classrooms (including physical education classrooms) for all pre-primary, primary and secondary grade levels.
- Activity rooms or common rooms of establishments providing group care for children under age 6 or offering recreational programming.
- Canteens/cafeterias.
- Dormitories.

VENTILATION ASSESSMENT

- Ensure that exterior openings can be accessed and adjusted.
- Perform a visual inspection of ventilation systems, including outlets, vents and air registers, and note whether they are functional and allow air to circulate properly.
- Take a direct reading of the CO₂ concentration in the indoor air for a real-time indication of indoor air exchange conditions.

Order of 12/27/2022

Sets out the conditions for taking direct readings of CO₂ concentration in indoor air as part of the annual ventilation assessment..

CO₂ CONCENTRATION READINGS

- 800 ppm or under equals to acceptable air quality. A reading above this value means action needs to be taken to ensure fresh air is being properly circulated.
- 1,500 ppm or above unacceptable air quality. A reading above this value means immediate action needs to be taken to address the underlying causes and ensure fresh air is being properly circulated.

Order of 06/01/2016

Amended by 2 orders of 12/27 2022

Sets out the specifics of the ventilation assessment report.

CONTENTS OF THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

- The results of the direct reading of CO₂ concentration: whether the thresholds of 800 ppm and 1,500 ppm were exceeded during the measurement period.
- Any corrective measures taken or planned in response to the assessment.