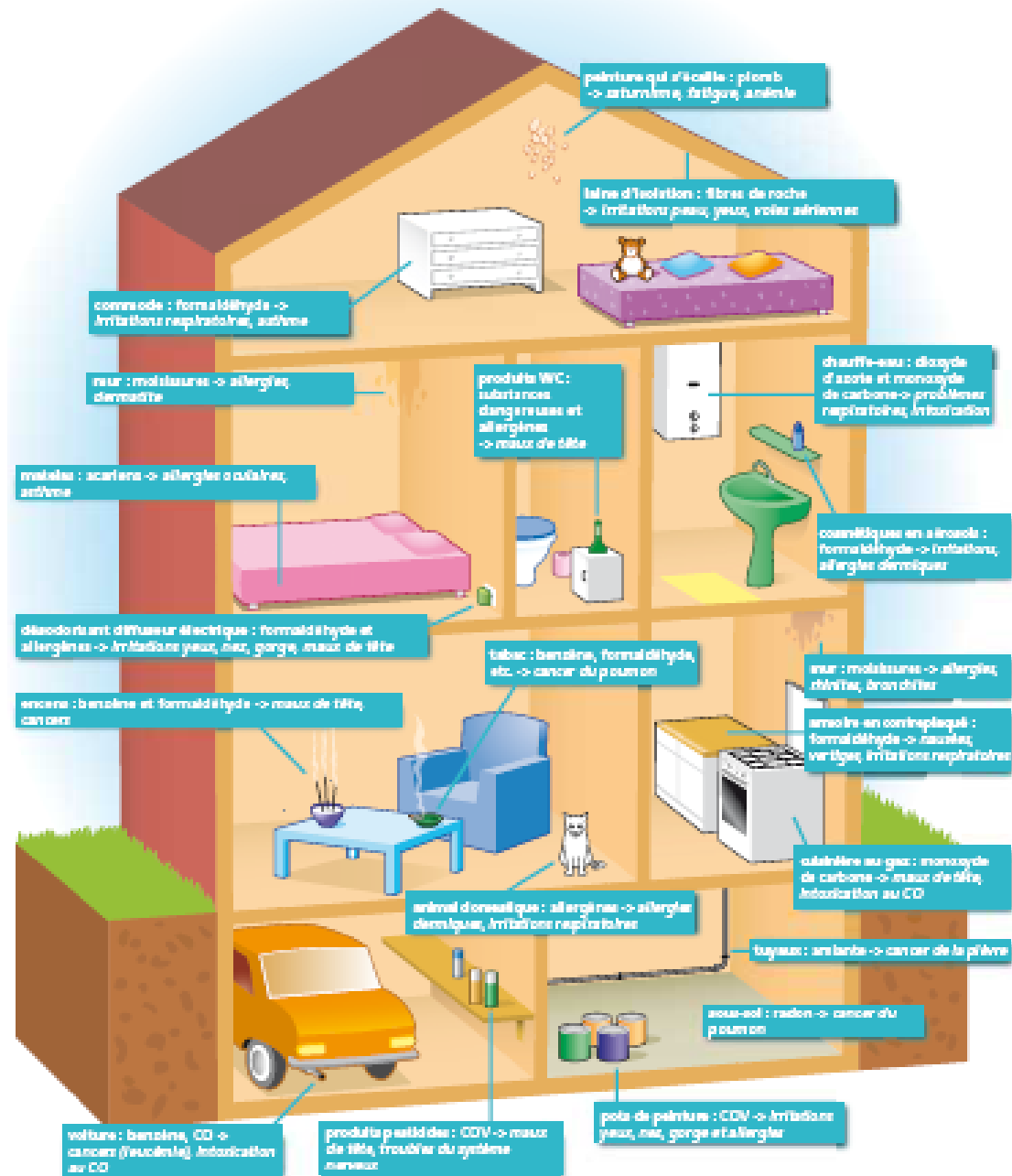


Indoor air quality: Consumers' concerns and policy recommendations

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LA MAISON POLLUÉE :
EXEMPLES DE SOURCES DE POLLUTION INTÉRIÈRE ET CERTAINS EFFETS POSSIBLES SUR LA SANTÉ



Occupants have little control

- It is often said that IAQ largely depends on the individual behaviour or lifestyles of occupants...
- perhaps true in some cases of environmental tobacco smoke but otherwise misleading: many consumer products may contribute to pollution of the indoor climate, by e.g. degassing, migration or dust generation.
- IAQ is of course also influenced by other parameters including room size, temperature and air flow.
- We cannot say that IAQ is simply a result of the behaviour of school pupils, workers, clients, customers or other occupants of particular spaces. Very few of these occupants have any control over the space they occupy.

Product Safety Directive is not sufficient...

- In our view, IAQ must be part of all policies dealing with consumer products
- The General Product Safety Directive requires all consumer products to be safe. However, in practice the GPSD is not sufficient to cover IAQ adequately.
- Example: consumer complaint about indoor air in shoe shop

...Nor is REACH

- REACH only covers substances ≥ 1 tpa
- It will certainly take more than 11 years before we know about safety of these substances
- Substances in consumer products only covered when intended to be released

Policy recommendations

- Minimum requirements
- Labelling
- Awareness raising
- Market surveillance

Minimum requirements

- Minimum requirements must be imposed to manufacturers
- Emissions of products must be integrated in the design process
- Possible tool: Eco-design?
- Eco-design is the integration of environmental relevant aspects into the design phase of products. The EU Eco-design of energy-using products Directive (2005/32/EC) will be revised and we would welcome an extension also to non energy-related products

Eco-design for water heaters, air conditioning and electric appliances

- Eco-design measures have to address NO_x and CO emissions at the same time to avoid health risk for consumers.
- Eco-design measures for air conditioning and electric appliances should include requirements on IAQ

Labelling

- Warning: Products should be labelled if they are likely to gas off hazardous chemicals
- Warning: special instruction for precaution must be displayed on products (e.g. paints)
- Positive Label: Eco-label criteria must include emission levels

Awareness rising

- Awareness rising crucial among consumers, manufacturers, importers, retailers, installers.
- In many countries, consumer NGOs provide analysis of indoor air.
- It should be easy for a consumer to get diagnostic tools to assess their own situation

Market surveillance

- Market surveillance activities in EU Member States have to actively test emissions from consumer products.
- Example 1: out-gassing pesticides from shipping containers, e.g. textiles, mattresses, shoes.

The way forward

- Green paper/ Action Plan on Indoor Air Quality?



Thank you

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