

Ecoliving System Pte Ltd: SS 554 an integral part in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic

Implementing the standard contributed to a 10 per cent growth in the company's revenue

23 March 2023 – Assessment of indoor air quality has become prevalent to the society today when the COVID-19 pandemic impeded global activities and individual's interaction habits. Recent studies done by National University of Singapore ([NUS, 2021](#)) and World Health Organization ([WHO, 2021](#)) have shown that the airborne transmission of the virus is highly virulent, resulting in rapid infection in communities. Mitigation measures such as face-masking has proven to reduce the number of infections as illustrated in the studies.

Guidelines on indoor air quality set by international agencies are paramount in minimising the risk of adverse health effects. Occupants are also spending more time indoors as global warming has resulted in the drastic shift in weather. Today, indoor air environment has never played an even more significant role in one's standard of living. Through the formation of a working committee from the public and private sectors, the *SS 554 Code of practice for indoor air quality for air-conditioned buildings* was developed to provide valuable information, advice and guidance on measures to improve the quality of air in air-conditioned environments that will be acceptable to building occupants.

In setting standards for indoor air quality (IAQ), SS 554 considers environmental factors, which include thermal, physical, chemical and biological factors. The standard provides limits for parameters that are indicative of the quality of the indoor air such as contaminants commonly found indoors. SS 554 further provides assurance to business owners and facilities managers that seek to engage contractors or service providers.

Resilience amidst the pandemic

Ecoliving System Pte Ltd is a Singapore company founded in 2006 that provides cutting-edge technological solutions for eliminating hidden dangers such as pathogens and toxins in the air, water and the environment. Their solutions are widely used by clients from both private and the public sectors, which includes Singapore General Hospital, Marina Bay Sands, and Scoot.

Since adopting SS 554, Ecoliving System has had a competitive advantage in identifying issues, and providing unique solutions to the relevant setting (i.e. to use stronger or better air purifiers / sterilisers in a high bacteria count environment, or increase fresh air intake in an

environment with high carbon dioxide concentrations). With greater awareness and implementation of SS 554, Ecoliving System has seen an increase in revenue of more than 10 per cent.



Mr Steve Chan, founder of Ecoliving System elaborates: “SS 554 is used and tested in many areas such as post-renovation projects, new buildings, shopping malls and green building certification schemes as it fulfills the required parameters to evaluate good indoor environments. It is a standard that organisations will adopt and use.”

During the pandemic, Ecoliving System was able to implement relevant solutions to assist other organisations in overcoming the sudden disruption brought by the pandemic. This has also elevated the organisation’s capabilities to accelerate business resumption to normalcy, allowing more employees to return to their workplaces with the gradual ease of measurements by authorities.

“We believe that anything worth doing, is worth doing right and worth doing big. That is why we chase the boldest of visions and that is to make a world that’s safer tomorrow than it is today.

“My clients had a better understanding of their environment and are aware of the overall cleanliness and hygiene of their indoor environment, through the tested parameters and the potential risk factors at large. This enables us to formulate action plans through the assessment during the pandemic,” said Steve.



Steve and his team conducting an IAQ assessment at a client’s premises

Government – Industry partnership

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of maintaining high standards of hygiene and sanitation to safeguard environmental public health. Since 30 July 2021, the authorities have rolled out baseline environmental sanitation (ES) standards ([NEA, 2021](#)) for specific and higher-risk premises with vulnerable occupants and / or high footfall such as childcare and learning centres. These premises are required to put in place good indoor air quality practices, with an aim to move towards a co-regulatory approach where all stakeholders take accountability and ownership of the ES standards within their respective premises. The managers of these specified premises are required to get accredited laboratories to conduct the periodic IAQ audits at least once every 3 years, and the audit should include measurements of the recommended IAQ parameters stipulated in SS 554.

Increasing portfolio

Adopting SS 554 can significantly boost an organisation's profile, providing a competitive edge within the industry for service providers and contractors.

Due to COVID-19, the concept of health has undergone a significant transformation over the last two years, with quality of life being the centre of attention. Upstream and downstream initiatives were rolled out by the authorities as part of their efforts to combat the mental health impact of the pandemic on the Singapore population. It has been shown that by providing a conducive environment such as good IAQ, it can help shape an individual's physical and social well-being, leading to decreased stress, reduced anxiety and improved mood.

“COVID-19 has brought greater awareness, and has taken precedence in maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness. Testing and treatment of the offices and working area had increased tremendously, especially in the childcare sector,” stressed Steven.

Progressive resumption to pre-Covid level

While the world recovers from the damage wrought by the pandemic, which has set back economic growth on multiple fronts, business owners, building managers, contractors and service providers can be prepare their organisations for the next pandemic by adopting good practices and recommendations as stated in SS 554 to ensure business continuity and resiliency.