

CIRI Releases Symposium Recap

HAMILTON, OH -- The Cleaning Industries Research Institute (CIRI) has released a summary “wrap-up” report regarding its symposium held April 30–May 2, 2007, at the University of Nevada.

The symposium’s primary goal was to identify science-based solutions that can be applied to the cleaning industry. The summary, written by Dr. Michael Berry, one of the presenters at the conference, is based on attendees’ survey responses as well as Dr. Berry’s own observations.

Among the issues noted as most significant:

- There is no recognized definition of “clean” and “cleaning.” Oftentimes, “clean” and “cleaning” are subjective. Appearance remains the hallmark of the clean condition.

- The public does not recognize the value and benefits of cleaning, or the industry is not properly raising awareness.
- Effective cleaning is not widely recognized as a form of (health) insurance.
- Cleaning performance is not measured, especially in terms of environmental quality.
- High-performance, science-based, quality management cleaning programs are extremely rare throughout the building services contracting industry.
- Building-related health complaints remain substantially high. Health effects, such as asthma and allergies, associated with indoor environmental exposure continue to grow at an alarming rate in the absence of effective cleaning.

Papers Reviewed

In addition to the conference assessment, Berry’s summary includes a condensed review of the foundation papers as well as those submitted by such industry experts as Daniel Daggett, with JohnsonDiversy Global Product Safety Department, and John Richter, technical advisor for Kaivac, Inc.

Dr. Berry encouraged future CIRI meetings to have more papers directly from industry members.

“They are an example of the types of papers CIRI seeks in the future,” he wrote. “[For example] Daggett’s was a well-designed assessment of the scientific literature regarding toxicology, cleaning, and indoor air quality. And Richter’s [presentation was] a well-designed study that examined and measured the cleaning effectiveness of restroom cleaning methods... demonstrating the value of designing cleaning systems that make use of the science concepts of each of the steps of the cleaning process.”

Berry concludes with an emphasis on more research in cleaning measurement methods, cleaning chemical effectiveness, and a standardization of definitions and terms for Green cleaning. The entire Berry summary is available at www.ciri-research.org.

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