



PRESS RELEASE

3 February 2020

Vent-Axia Supports Landmark Report by Royal Colleges on Indoor Air Quality

Leading British ventilation manufacturer Vent-Axia welcomes the latest joint report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the Royal College of Physicians on the health impact of indoor air quality (IAQ) on children and young people. The report, *'The inside story: Health effects of indoor air quality on children and young people'*, published on 28 January 2020, explains that there is growing evidence that respiratory problems among children may be exacerbated by indoor air pollution in homes, schools and nurseries.

This comprehensive landmark report, involving a systematic review of 221 studies, shows evidence linking indoor air pollution to a number of childhood health problems, including: asthma, wheezing, conjunctivitis, dermatitis, and eczema. Within the report sources of indoor air pollution are cited as including smoking, damp, the burning of fossil fuels and wood, dust, chemicals from building materials, furnishings, aerosol sprays, and cleaning products. The document also warns that IAQ tends to be worse in low quality housing where properties are poorly ventilated.

Report recommendations include that local authorities should have the power to require improvements in local authority schools and houses where air quality fails to meet minimum standards. To do this it advises revising the Building Regulations by: setting robust legally binding performance standards for IAQ including ventilation rates, maximum concentration levels for specific pollutants, labelling materials and testing appliances; introducing air quality tests when local authority construction is complete and before building sign-off; checking compliance tests after the construction stages and assessment of buildings once occupied and in use.

"At Vent-Axia we are committed to improving indoor air quality and so public health," explains Jenny Smith, Head of Marketing at Vent-Axia. *"With Public Health England attributing between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths a year from long-term exposure to air pollution, it is the biggest environmental threat to health in the UK. Until now outdoor air pollution has been at the forefront of air pollution debates but this report confirms the vital importance of IAQ to health. It therefore advises an urgent step change with a number of recommendations designed to radically help improve the indoor air we breathe."*

Another key recommendation from the report is that local authorities should follow the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance 'Indoor Air Quality at Home', which was published earlier this month. The document provided detailed information and advice on how to reduce exposure to indoor pollutants and so help protect health. The publication of this guidance set in stone the importance of good IAQ, highlighting the significant part effective ventilation plays in helping combat indoor air pollution in the home.

Confirming the significance of IAQ's impact on health the Royal Colleges' report calls for a cross-governmental committee to co-ordinate working in health, environment, education and homes for indoor air quality and recommends developing a national strategy and policy for IAQ. The strategy should designate a Government Cabinet lead on the issue of IAQ and there should be steps to raise public awareness and understanding. There is also a recommendation for the inclusion of IAQ within Air Quality plans mandated by Government.

Other recommendations from the Royal Colleges' report include calls for local authorities to offer free indoor air testing for residents, as well as a national fund to support improvements for low income families. Meanwhile, to evaluate IAQ risks in homes and schools the report recommends improved resources for Environmental Health Officers. The report also advises on an update of existing instruments, such as the Housing Health and Safety Rating Systems to include more evidence on a wider range on indoor air pollutants. There are also calls for a 'clean house' check-up system similar to current Energy Performance Certificates and regulation of air-cleaning devices.

Since 1936 Vent-Axia has been working hard to provide ventilation solutions to improve IAQ for households. For new build homes, Vent-Axia's Sentinel Kinetic mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) system boasts an impressive 94% heat recovery. Meanwhile, Vent-Axia's Lo-Carbon Sentinel Kinetic Cooker Hood combines a cooker hood with MVHR unit in one. A vital part of an MVHR system is its filters. Inside an MVHR unit, fresh incoming air passes through a filter to remove pollen, debris and products of pollution. Filters up to ISO ePM2.5 70% (F7 grade) ensure even homes in heavily urbanised areas can filter out most impurities, up to and including PM2.5 particles, for example diesel particulates. To ensure MVHR systems run efficiently and effectively Vent-Axia also offers ventilation servicing to maintain the systems and check and replace filters as needed.

However, for areas where air quality is particularly poor the Vent-Axia Pure Air duct filtration has been designed to go one step further to improve IAQ. Working with an MVHR system, it is fitted to the intake airflow and incorporates two types of filtration— enhanced activated carbon filtration to remove harmful gases such as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and ISO ePM10/ePM2.5 particulate filters to achieve even higher levels of filtration.

For private refurbishments, one solution is the Vent-Axia PureAir Sense which is the UK's only bathroom fan with an odour sensor and has been designed to help offer peace of mind to households. Equipped with a pioneering odour sensor that increases airflow when the air is poor, the Vent-Axia PureAir Sense helps ensure a comfortable living environment.

For social housing refurbishments, Positive input Ventilation, such as Vent-Axia's Lo-Carbon Pozidry Pro PIV and Lo-Carbon Pozidry Compact Pro offer filtration up to ISO ePM2.5 70% (F7 grade).

For further information on all products and services offered by Vent-Axia telephone 0844 856 0590 or visit www.vent-axia.com.

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Notes for Editors

1. [The Inside Story: Health effects of indoor air quality on children and young people](#) is jointly published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). It is funded by Allergy UK, Airtopia, Asthma UK, BEAMA, British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA), British Heart Foundation, British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Dyson, and the Greater London Authority. National Institute for Health and Welfare. (2013) Efficient reduction of indoor exposures. Health benefits from optimizing ventilation, filtration and indoor source controls.
2. Boasting over 80 years' experience, Vent-Axia is the ventilation sector's clear leader, chief innovator and forerunner in developing energy efficient products that help provide good indoor air quality. Committed to improving indoor air quality and comfort in both homes and buildings, Vent-Axia provides the sector's most comprehensive choice from any single manufacturer. Vent-Axia's range covers not just air movement and ventilation technologies but heat recovery, electric heating, hand dryers, cooling and clean-air systems for residential, commercial, public sector and industrial applications.

Media Contact:

Sara MacLean

MacLean Communications

Tel: 07976 782817

Email: macleancomms@gmail.com