



CONSUMER MOLD INFORMATION SHEET*

Regulation of Mold Assessment and Remediation in Texas

How are businesses that do testing for mold or mold cleanup regulated?

Such businesses are regulated by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), based on legislation passed in 2003 ([Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1958](#)). Under the **Texas Mold Assessment and Remediation Rules (Rules)** ([25 TAC §§295.301-295.338](#)), all companies and individuals who perform mold-related activities are required to obtain appropriate licensing from the department. Applicants must meet certain qualifications, have required training and pass a state exam in order to receive their licenses. Mold remediation workers must have training and be registered with the department. Laboratories that analyze mold samples must also be licensed and meet certain qualifications. The Rules set minimum work standards that licensees must follow and require them to follow a code of ethics. To prevent conflicts of interest, the rules also prohibit a licensee from conducting both mold assessment and mold remediation on the same project.

How can I know if someone is licensed?

A licensed individual is required to carry a photo ID issued by DSHS with a license number on it. Listings of currently licensed companies and individuals can be found at: www.dshs.state.tx.us/mold.

What is “mold assessment?”

Mold assessment involves an inspection of a building to evaluate whether mold growth is present, and to what extent. Samples may be taken to determine the amount and types of mold that are present; however, sampling is not necessary in many cases. A mold assessment consultant is responsible for developing a **mold remediation protocol**, that specifies the estimated quantities and locations of materials to be remediated, the proposed methods to use and clearance criteria that must be met.

What is meant by “clearance criteria?”

Clearance criteria refer to the level of “cleanliness” that is to be achieved by the persons conducting the mold clean up. It is very important that you understand and agree with the assessor prior to starting the project what an acceptable clearance level will be, including what will be acceptable results for any air sampling or surface sampling for mold. There are no national or state standards identifying a “safe” level of mold. Mold spores are a natural part of the environment that are always present at some level in the air and on surfaces all around us. See below for more information about **post-remediation assessments**.

What is “mold remediation?”

Mold remediation is the clean up and removal of mold growth from surfaces and/or contents in a building. It also refers to actions taken to prevent mold from growing. **Mold remediators** must follow the **mold remediation protocol** described above and their own **mold remediation work plan** that provides specific instructions and/or standard operating procedures for how the project will be done.

Before a remediation project can be deemed successful, a **post-remediation assessment** must be conducted by a **mold assessment consultant**. This is an inspection to ensure that the work area is free from all visible