



## Scent Awareness Guideline

**Subject:** Scent and Perfume Awareness

**Applies to:** All employees

**Number:**

**Pages:** 3

**Effective Date:** February 20, 2008

**Updated:** August 2012

**Supersedes:** New

**Prepared and Approved by:** Occupational Health and Safety

**Purpose:**

This guideline is offered as a method of raising the awareness of all persons entering Western buildings regarding the need to eliminate the use of scented products wherever possible as well as providing best practices for the management of scent-related complaints and concerns.

**Scope:**

All Western buildings and off campus locations occupied by staff, students and visitors.

**Background Information:**

For the general population, exposure to scents is not typically problematic. However, from time-to-time, the presence of perfumes and other scented products can present indoor air quality concerns that may affect worker/occupant comfort. Furthermore, for a very small portion of the general population, scented products may present a risk of health hazard.

Individuals with pre-existing conditions such as chemical sensitivities or sensitizations, asthma or allergies, exposure to some odours can cause a range of ill health effects. Some reported symptoms include: headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea, fatigue, weakness, insomnia, malaise, confusion, loss of appetite, depression, anxiety, numbness, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, difficulty with concentration, and/or skin irritation.

Scented products more commonly include the following:

- Personal hygiene products (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, hairsprays, deodorants, colognes, after-shaves, fragrances, perfumes, lotions, soaps, cosmetics and creams);

- Industrial and household chemicals and cleaners;

- Air fresheners (e.g., deodorizers, potpourri, oils and candles); and

- Various household products.



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