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Discussion

Comment on 'Indoor air quality and health'[☆]

The recent Millennial Review Paper by Jones¹ is a comprehensive and useful review of issues in indoor air quality and health. However, in the course of accuracy, two corrections to its Section 2.7 on radon are warranted. Both concerned the discussions on the radon concentrations in the office environment (second paragraph on p. 4544). First, the authorship for the reference was wrong; it should instead be Yu et al. 1998 (Yu, K.N., Young, E.C.M., Stokes, M.J., Tang, K.K., 1998. Radon Properties in Offices. *Health Physics* 75, 159–164). Second, there was apparently some mis-interpretation of the results from the reference, which led to the conclusion that In 94 Hong Kong office buildings they (Yu et al.) recorded radon concentration similar to those that have been observed in domestic situations, with a mean of

51 Bq m⁻³. In fact, Yu et al. concluded (on p. 160 of the Health Physics paper) that the average radon concentration for the current investigation is about 51 Bq m⁻³, which is significantly higher than the average value of 30 Bq m⁻³ measured using the same method for all dwellings (at a confidence level close to 100%). Jones correctly addressed the scarcity of studies of radon concentrations in the office environment, and we believed that more extensive studies are warranted because of the significantly higher radon concentrations in offices.

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[☆]Jones, 1999. Indoor air quality and health. *Atmospheric Environment* 33, 4535–4564. PII of original paper: S1352-2310(99)00272-1.