



## Dip coating of air purifier ceramic honeycombs with photocatalytic TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles: A case study for occupational exposure

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# 1 **Source specific exposure and risk assessment for indoor aerosols**

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31 **Abstract**

32 Poor air quality is a leading contributor to the global disease burden and total number of deaths worldwide. Humans  
33 spend most of their time in built environments where the majority of the inhalation exposure occurs. Indoor Air  
34 Quality (IAQ) is challenged by outdoor air pollution entering indoors through ventilation and infiltration and by  
35 indoor emission sources. The aim of this study was to understand the current knowledge level and gaps regarding  
36 effective approaches to improve IAQ. Emission regulations currently focus on outdoor emissions, whereas  
37 quantitative understanding of emissions from indoor sources is generally lacking. Therefore, specific indoor  
38 sources need to be identified, characterized, and quantified according to their environmental and human health  
39 impact. The emission sources should be stored in terms of relevant metrics and statistics in an easily accessible  
40 format that is applicable for source specific exposure assessment by using mathematical mass balance modelings.  
41 This forms a foundation for comprehensive risk assessment and efficient interventions. For such a general exposure  
42 assessment model we need 1) systematic methods for indoor aerosol emission source assessment, 2) source  
43 emission documentation in terms of relevant a) aerosol metrics and b) biological metrics, 3) default model  
44 parameterization for predictive exposure modeling, 4) other needs related to aerosol characterization techniques  
45 and modeling methods. Such a general exposure assessment model can be applicable for private, public, and  
46 occupational indoor exposure assessment, making it a valuable tool for public health professionals, product safety  
47 designers, industrial hygienists, building scientists, and environmental consultants working in the field of IAQ and  
48 health.

49

50 **Keywords:** Air quality, Emission, Modeling, Mass balance, Regulation, Health

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73

## 74 **1. Aerosols and their impact on human health**

75 The air that we breathe contains a diverse mixture of gaseous and particulate matter (PM) pollutants released from  
76 natural and anthropogenic sources (Streets et al., 2009; Karagulian et al., 2015). In modern society, people spend  
77 80 to 90% of their time indoors, where the quality of air is driven by pollutant source and loss mechanisms,  
78 including indoor emission sources in close proximity to occupants, outdoor pollutants that are transported indoors  
79 via ventilation and infiltration, pollutant deposition to indoor surfaces, and filtration, among others (e.g. Hussein  
80 et al., 2013).

81 Air pollution was ranked as the sixth highest risk factor attributable to Disability-Adjusted Life-Years (DALYs)  
82 in 2016 (GBD, 2017a). In 2015, over 90% of the world's population was breathing unhealthy air, with the majority  
83 of the disease burden carried by middle- and low-income countries (Landrigan et al., 2018; HEI, 2017). However,  
84 developed countries also carry their part of the disease burden attributed to poor air quality. According to the  
85 European Environmental Agency (EEA), ambient air PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $D_{50} \leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) concentrations alone caused *ca.*  
86 400 000 premature deaths in the EU-27 (EEA, 2018). The World Bank (2016) estimated that air pollution in 2013  
87 cost the global economy more than \$5 trillion in welfare losses. There is a common agreement that air pollution is  
88 globally still at an unacceptably high level and more stringent emission regulations are needed (HEI, 2017; WHO,  
89 2016; The World Bank, 2016; OECD, 2014; IEA, 2016). For example, in the U.S., the benefits/costs ratio in air  
90 pollution regulations issued between 2004 and 2014 were economically at least four times more beneficial than  
91 the regulation expenses, being the most economically beneficial of all federal regulations (OMB, 2015). However,  
92 worldwide current regulations are mainly implemented for outdoor emissions, while there are mainly guidelines  
93 for indoor emissions (Harrison et al., 2011).

94 Disease burden due to ambient air pollution exposure is mainly associated with PM<sub>10</sub> ( $D_{50} \leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ ), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, ozone  
95 (O<sub>3</sub>), and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) pollutants where PM<sub>2.5</sub> is considered the most harmful component for human health  
96 (Landrigan et al., 2018; GBD, 2017a, 2017b; Butt et al., 2017; EEA, 2018; HEI, 2017; WHO, 2016; Lehtomäki et  
97 al., 2018). Air pollution causes a wide range of diseases (*e.g.* Thurston et al., 2017; Guxens et al., 2018; Bowe et

98 al., 2018). Both short-term (few hours to weeks) and long-term (years to decades) PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure is associated  
99 with respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses (Brook et al., 2010). For a short-term exposure, Achilleos et al. (2017)  
100 found a 0.89% increase in all-cause respiratory mortality per 10 µg m<sup>-3</sup> increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and for long-term PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
101 exposure, the theoretical minimum for No-Observable Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) ranges from 2.5 to 5.9 µg  
102 m<sup>-3</sup> (GBD, 2017b). This is clearly lower than the WHO air quality guidelines for PM<sub>2.5</sub> of 25 µg m<sup>-3</sup> for a 24-hour  
103 mean and 10 µg m<sup>-3</sup> for the annual mean (WHO, 2016).

104 An aerosol is a dynamic system where different compounds can be in gas, liquid, or solid phase depending on their  
105 thermodynamic equilibrium (*e.g.* Seinfeld and Pandis, 2016). Ambient PM is a complex mixture of inorganic  
106 elements from crustal or anthropogenic sources, water-soluble ions (acids, alkalines and salts) forming secondary  
107 inorganic aerosols, carbonaceous aerosols including organic carbon (OC) and elemental carbon (EC), organic  
108 compounds such as polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), secondary organic  
109 aerosols (SOAs), and inhalable biological matter, including bacteria, fungi, and pollen (Nozière et al., 2015;  
110 Pernigotti et al., 2016; Liang et al., 2016; Mukherjee and Agrawal, 2017). In urban areas, the majority of PM  
111 emissions originate from local anthropogenic sources, such as traffic, industry, domestic fuel burning, and other  
112 combustion-related emissions (Karagulian et al., 2015; Liang et al., 2016), along with long-range transport of  
113 PM<sub>2.5</sub> (*e.g.* Lehtomäki et al., 2018).

114 Even though PM is a complex mixture of primary and secondary particles and condensates, epidemiological  
115 studies often focus on health effects of PM<sub>2.5</sub> or PM<sub>10</sub> mass concentrations, regardless of their chemical  
116 composition, biological activity, or particle morphologies. This is mainly due to outdoor air quality measurement  
117 standards set in the 1990s (McClellan, 2002). However, there is increasing evidence that PM<sub>1</sub> ( $D_{50} \leq 1 \mu\text{m}$ ) or  
118 ultrafine particulate matter (UFP;  $D_{50} \leq 0.1 \mu\text{m}$ ) might have stronger associations to health effects at similar mass  
119 concentration (Seaton et al., 1995; Peters et al., 1997; Oberdörster, 2001; Donaldson et al., 2001; Nel, 2005; Politis  
120 et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2017). Chemical reactions, such as oxidation in ambient air, can change the compositions  
121 of the gaseous and PM pollutants and affect their toxicity (*e.g.* Shiraiwa et al., 2012). For example, Tyler et al.

122 (2016) showed that freshly generated diesel and gasoline engine exhaust UFPs are inherently more toxic than PM  
123 that has lost surface-adhered volatile gases by aging.

## 124 **2. Inhalation exposure to indoor aerosols**

125 Asikainen et al. (2016) estimated that 78% of the total annual disease burden of indoor exposures in the EU was  
126 caused by PM<sub>2.5</sub>, corresponding to a loss of 2 million DALYs annually. It was found that approximately 62% of  
127 the annual DALYs of indoor exposure was caused by the transport of outdoor PM<sub>2.5</sub> to the indoor environment via  
128 ventilation and 16% by indoor sources. Thus, according to this study, reducing outdoor concentrations is the most  
129 efficient way to make indoor air healthier. However, Chen and Zhao (2011) reviewed PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutant  
130 indoor/outdoor (I/O) ratios measured in North America and Europe and found that it varies from 0.8 to 3.4,  
131 suggesting that indoor particle emission sources can still significantly contribute to indoor air pollution.

132 Many studies report indoor particle concentrations in residences (Bari et al., 2015; Secret et al., 2017; Li et al.,  
133 2017), work environments (Moitra et al. 2015; Viitanen et al., 2017), public areas (Morawska et al., 2017; Chang  
134 et al., 2017), schools (Salthammer et al., 2017), or public transportation (Cepeda et al., 2017). However,  
135 quantitative particle releases from specific emission sources are seldom reported (Abadie and Blondeau, 2011),  
136 even though aerosol physics-based mathematical tools for indoor source characterization have been well  
137 established for decades (*e.g.* Nazaroff, 1989). Mass (or material) balance models account for the interplay between  
138 particle source processes that act to increase concentrations in an indoor space (*e.g.* emissions) and loss processes  
139 that act to reduce indoor concentrations (*e.g.* ventilation, deposition, and filtration).

140 The publicly available indoor air pollutant emission database PANDORA contains *ca.* 9000 pollutant emission  
141 rates coming from 600 indoor sources (gaseous and PM), but particle emission rates are given only for a limited  
142 number of sources: a candle or incense burning, cooking, spray use, printing, household cleaning, and wood  
143 combustion in a conventional masonry heater (Abadie and Blondeau, 2011; LaSIE). Similarly, *ca.* 2000 microbial  
144 volatile organic compound emissions from 1000 species are well documented in a public database (Lemfack et al.,



145 2018). Detailed inventories of particle emission rates, which are strongly size-dependent, are clearly lacking and  
146 urgently needed. Recently, Koivisto et al. (2017) identified requirements for emission source characterization,  
147 which allows for predicting the source impact on the environment and human health. They established a first draft  
148 for an emission library for quantitative material releases from products containing manufactured nanomaterials.

149 Identification of emission sources forms a foundation for an effective indoor exposure control. The concentrations  
150 at the source are poorly diluted and can be removed or enclosed efficiently. Indoor personal exposure levels can  
151 be reduced by i) reducing outdoor ambient air concentrations, ii) removing indoor sources, iii) reducing product  
152 and process emissions by safe-by-design and building architecture, iv) applying engineered emission controls such  
153 as local exhaust ventilation systems, v) using high efficiency filter media in ventilation systems and portable air  
154 purifiers, vi) administrative changes of work organization, and vii) using personal protective equipment (PPE).  
155 Considering the emission control, emission source identification and detailed physio-chemical characterization of  
156 pollutants from molecular length scales ( $< 3$  nm) to  $> 10$   $\mu$ m is critical (*e.g.* Nozière et al., 2015; Rönkkö et al.,  
157 2017). Without knowledge of source behavior, strength, and emitted chemicals, bioaerosols and other particles, it  
158 is challenging to efficiently implement safety actions as the listed above. Emission source identification is needed  
159 for the development of safer products or providing better guidance for product use before launching them to  
160 markets. For example, Sung et al. (2017) shows that a safe-by-design action reduces printer emissions by 40 %  
161 and Jensen et al. (2015) demonstrated how working practices in sanding techniques affects the particle emission  
162 rate. The impact of risk management measures (RMMs) on air quality levels can be estimated by using  
163 mathematical mass balance models if emission sources and RMMs efficacies are known. This can be used to select  
164 or even design efficient RMMs for specific exposure scenarios.

### 165 **3. Mathematical models for estimating indoor aerosol exposure**

166 Indoor air quality (IAQ) can be assessed empirically and directly by suitable sampling. However, measurements  
167 are not always possible to perform to the required extent, and therefore may not provide sufficient information

168 about the determinants of exposure. In the case of limited, or even completely missing empirical data, IAQ and  
169 exposure determinants can be alternatively assessed by means of mathematical models. Important exposure  
170 determinants that such models should include are source strengths, dispersion of pollutants, and particle removal  
171 rates by exposure and emission controls. Indoor exposure models can provide insight into exposure levels across  
172 a range of environmental conditions, facilitating efficient answers to ‘what if’ questions and can also be useful  
173 tools in understanding the dynamic behavior of aerosols under controlled conditions.

174 If implemented correctly, models can improve understanding of personal exposure, which so far has been mostly  
175 based on epidemiological studies solely based on ambient air monitoring data. For example, indoor exposure  
176 models can provide input data for epidemiological studies, which has been challenging because measurements in  
177 indoor environments on a population-representative scale have thus far not been feasible. In addition, indoor  
178 exposure models can be used for total personal exposure assessment in different and mixed daily exposure  
179 scenarios, including kindergarten/school/workplace, home, mall, transit, and outdoors (Hussein et al. 2015). A full  
180 daily personal exposure assessment is needed to understand which environments have most significant  
181 contribution to inhalation intake, dose, and health effects.

182 Exposure models consist of four main components describing:

- 183 • The source term (gas and PM emissions) and transformation of pollutants during release to the  
184 surroundings.
- 185 • Loss and transformation processes as described by the general dynamic equation for aerosol particles  
186 (mass balance) and chemical reactions (energy balance).
- 187 • The exposure controls reducing emissions from the source (*e.g.* local ventilation), preventing dispersion  
188 of pollutants (*e.g.* process chamber), reducing concentrations (*e.g.* portable air purifier), and use of PPE.
- 189 • A lung deposition model for estimating regional deposition of particles in respiratory tract during  
190 inspiration and expiration.

191 Different exposure model categories includes mathematical mass balance models, knowledge-based models, and  
192 statistical models of exposure determinants (AIHA, 2009). Compared to knowledge-based or statistical models,  
193 mathematical mass balance models are transparent, have a physical concept to simplify reality, and may include  
194 physical processes, such as transformation of pollutants (*e.g.* particle coagulation). Most physical indoor air  
195 models are based on the general dynamic equation (Gelbard and Seinfeld, 1979), which describes the time rate of  
196 change of an indoor pollutant concentration by including sources, sinks (deposition, filtration), room-to-room  
197 airflows (interzonal airflows), air exchange with the outdoors, and transformation processes (*e.g.* Nazaroff, 1989;  
198 Kephelopoulos et al., 2005; Howard-Reed and Polidoro, 2006; Abadie and Blondeau, 2011). Importantly, the use  
199 of such models enables for generalization of the results across diverse indoor environments and exposure scenarios.

200 The general dynamic equation can be simplified according to user needs. Common simplifications are a single-  
201 compartment model for rooms with fully mixed air (Hewett and Ganser, 2017) and a two-compartment model  
202 where a concentration gradient near the source is described using a virtual volume with limited air exchange with  
203 a far-field zone (also known as a Near-Field/Far-Field (NF/FF) model; Hemeon, 1955; Nicas, 1996;  
204 Ramachandran, 2005; Jayjock et al., 2011; Ganser and Hewett, 2017; Jensen et al., 2018). Single- and two-  
205 compartment models can be useful especially in predictive top-down exposure modeling where a limited amount  
206 of information is available about the environmental characteristics.

207 Two-compartment models are especially useful for evaluating exposures when the occupant is in close spatial  
208 proximity to the source, *e.g.* cooking and human movement-induced dust resuspension (*e.g.* Wu et al., 2018). In  
209 such cases, the buoyant human thermal plume plays an important role in governing the transport of particles  
210 between the NF and FF (Rim and Novoselac, 2009; Licina et al., 2017; Göhler et al., 2018). Multi-compartment  
211 models, such as CONTAM, can be applied when the indoor environment (*e.g.* I/O and interzonal pressure  
212 differentials) and ventilation system characteristics (*e.g.* volumetric airflow rates and HVAC run-time) are known  
213 for a particular building. However, measurements of interzonal airflows between compartments, HVAC run-times,

214 and long-term variations in ventilation rates are severely lacking (Liu et al., 2018; Touchie and Siegel, 2018; Alavy  
215 et al., 2018).

216 Regardless of the modeling approach, the emission source is the most critical parameter considering exposure to  
217 indoor generated aerosols. The particle emission source is usually described with i) a worst-case assumption - all  
218 used material is emitted and becomes airborne, ii) using a concept of dustiness index ( $\text{mg kg}^{-1}$ ; e.g. Schneider and  
219 Jensen, 2009 and demonstrated in Levin et al., 2014), iii) by direct measurements in chamber and/or field studies.  
220 The particle emissions from powder handling are dependent on the material characteristics and properties (*e.g.*  
221 density, mechanisms and extent of aggregation and agglomeration, particle size distribution, moisture content), as  
222 well as external parameters (which can be mathematically represented by *e.g.* a handling energy factor) that are  
223 currently arbitrary and mostly qualitative values. Some studies have shown a correlation between dustiness and  
224 personal exposure to dust (Breum et al., 2003; Heitbrink et al., 1990; Brouwer et al., 2006; Ribalta et al., 2019).  
225 However, accurately connecting source parameterization concepts to measured concentrations and exposure has  
226 been shown to be challenging. As an example, in a paint factory, Koivisto et al. (2015a) demonstrated that the  
227 dustiness index did not predict the airborne respirable particle mass-concentrations during a pouring process very  
228 well. Better knowledge of the sources and their behavior, as well as more research on potentially useful concepts  
229 for representative source parameterization is needed for more accurately predicting exposure levels and mass flows  
230 of pollutants (Koivisto et al., 2017).

231 The RMMs and PPE properties are relatively well studied due to regulations. Fransman et al. (2008) developed an  
232 exposure control efficacy library, which contains 433 efficacy values for six RMM groups: enclosure, local exhaust  
233 ventilation, specialized ventilation, general ventilation, suppression techniques and separation of the worker.  
234 Goede et al. (2018) revised recently the exposure control efficacy library, but still more studies are needed to  
235 understand their workplace performances and append the library to cover modern RMMs (*e.g.* Yu and Kim, 2013;  
236 Mølgaard et al., 2014; Koivisto et al., 2015b). Moreover, a change from pure mass-based to aerosol dynamic

237 modelling covering the entire nano- to  $\mu\text{m}$ -scale size-range would require a considerable improvement of the  
238 RMM test procedures and documentation.

#### 239 **4. Status of exposure assessment tools under REACH**

240 The Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation implemented by  
241 the European Chemical Association (ECHA) demands that manufacturers or importers must determine the  
242 appropriate risk management measures and prevent excessive exposure by all relevant exposure routes (EC, 2006).  
243 Since June 2018, this is applied to all chemicals that are manufactured or imported in quantities over 1 metric ton  
244 per year within the European Union. Exposure assessment/exposure scenarios are needed on substances  
245 manufactured/imported more than 10 t/a and are classified as hazardous according to EU classification, labelling  
246 and packaging criteria for environmental, occupational, and consumer exposure scenarios (ECHA, 2016a). Such  
247 a task is not possible to overcome only with measurements, and therefore exposure assessment relies on  
248 mathematical exposure modeling.

249 ECHA accepts the use of both deterministic models, *e.g.* ConsExpo, and empirical models that are not necessary  
250 physical models, such as Stoffenmanager<sup>®</sup> (Marquart et al., 2008) and the Advanced REACH Tool (ART;  
251 Fransman et al., 2011). Empirical models are based on dimensionless exposure modifying factors to calculate an  
252 exposure score, which are further converted either to an exposure value ( $\text{mg m}^{-3}$ ) by using calibration factors based  
253 on occupational exposure measurements (*e.g.* Schinkel et al., 2011). These exposure modifying factors are not  
254 always clearly described (*e.g.* the ART v1.5, Stoffenmanager<sup>®</sup> v8.0, EASE v2.0, EMKG-EXPO-TOOL, MEASE;  
255 see Savic et al. (2016) and its references), which makes the models typically more challenging to evaluate. For  
256 example, Koivisto et al. (2018a) found that the general ventilation multipliers were not correctly calculated by  
257 Cherrie et al. (1999) in Stoffenmanager<sup>®</sup> and by Cherrie et al. (2011) in the ART. However, despite the direct error  
258 in the NF/FF ratios ranged from 0.8 to 2.8, the consequence of the error was difficult to assess due to subsequent  
259 calibration of the tools with measured exposure data and the empirical modeling approach.

260 The uncertainties in mechanistic or conceptual models can be seen in their poor predictive capability, which is  
261 why occupational exposure assessment substances of very high concern should rely on measured exposure levels.  
262 Comparison of modelling results using the ART and Stoffenmanager® with measurements has shown that the  
263 predicted exposure levels 90% confidence interval limits are typically two orders of magnitude or more (Lamb et  
264 al., 2015; Landberg et al., 2017, 2018; Savic et al., 2017; van Tongeren et al., 2017; Spinazzè et al., 2017; Lee et  
265 al. 2018a,b). Due to modeling uncertainties, ECHA recommends using measurement data in exposure assessment  
266 of substances of very high concern (ECHA, 2016b). Properly applied physical mass-balance models appear to be  
267 stronger tools for case-specific exposure assessments (Table 1). Recent developments have demonstrated the use  
268 of the initial development of such tools including uncertainty analysis in the exposure and hazard assessments  
269 along product life-cycles as background for decision support and regulatory use (Tsang et al., 2017 ; Hristozov et  
270 al. 2018; Pizzol et al. 2019).

## 271 **5. Current needs in aerosol exposure risk assessment and management**

272 Aerosol exposure measurements forms the foundation for understanding the exposure determinants.  
273 Measurements are needed to identify and characterize pollution sources, exposure model parameterization,  
274 performance testing and calibration, development of default exposure scenarios, and for better understanding of  
275 RMMs. This usually requires spatial concentration and size distribution measurements (ventilation air or outdoor  
276 air, Near-Field, Far-Field, and breathing zone) where exposure determinants can be solved if high quality  
277 contextual information is available regarding activities, material uses, and emission controls. Development of  
278 inexpensive and small sensors, such as shown by Crilley et al. (2018), are needed both for source and exposure  
279 identification and can be used to understand dispersion of pollutants in different indoor environments. Dispersion  
280 of pollutants is needed to select the model design, such as number of model segments and air exchange between  
281 the segments. Closure studies are needed for indoor environments relating observations of individual particle  
282 characteristics to total concentrations, environmental parameters and activity patterns. However, comprehensive

283 exposure assessment studies with such information are scarce. This is probably because comprehensive particle  
284 measurements standardization was recently developed (see *e.g.* CEN FprEN 17058:2018 E for occupational  
285 nanomaterial exposure assessment and Zhao et al. (2018) for I/O measurements). However, measurements and  
286 analyses not only need to be standardized, but also simple, feasible and to some extent, cost-efficient. Automated  
287 procedures are needed to limit time and user bias; otherwise, long-term studies are not economically feasible.

### 288 *5.1 Measurement of relevant particle properties*

289 There is a wide range of sampling techniques capable of providing information on the health relevant aerosol  
290 physical properties (*e.g.* mass, size, surface area, structure, charge, radioactivity), chemical aspects (molecular  
291 composition, solubility, elemental contents) and biological features (species, microbial viability, allergens, *etc.*).  
292 Nevertheless, for many important particle characteristics there is still a substantial need for new instrumentation  
293 to obtain data with high specificity, at high time resolution and at reasonable cost. In addition, the rapid  
294 development of new measurements techniques over the last decades have not been followed by a similar  
295 advancement in standardization, control and calibration of the instruments. Thus, variability between instruments  
296 may be considerable. Inter-calibration and harmonization of measurement procedures have been developed further  
297 in atmospheric research than in research of indoor environments through well-coordinated large research networks  
298 that allow comparison between field stations at different locations around the globe. Hence, experimental  
299 assessment of air quality and emissions in the built environment could probably benefit from an increased use of  
300 methodologies developed for calibration and quality control in atmospheric science.

301 High time resolution, on the scale of minutes, is often required to enable source identification, not least in indoor  
302 environments where temporal variability may be considerable. Aerosol morphological parameters can be  
303 determined in-situ by measuring the relationship between particle electrical mobility and mass (McMurry et al.,  
304 2002). Such measurements can be conducted by pairing a mobility sizer with an aerosol particle mass analyzer or  
305 centrifugal particle mass analyzer (*e.g.* Johnson et al., 2013, 2014; Rissler et al., 2013, 2014; Wang et al., 2015).  
306 This measurement technique enables for determination of size-resolved aerosol effective densities, dynamic shape

307 factors, and fractal dimensions. However, in-situ assessment of the morphology of aerosols produced by indoor  
308 emission sources is very limited.

309 On the other hand, high spatial resolution is needed to assess distinct physico-chemical properties. There are  
310 currently rapid advancement in detection technologies that facilitates this research. Combined with energy  
311 dispersive X-ray detection, electron microscopy can serve to classify and categorize airborne collected particles  
312 according to their source (Schuetz 1989, Scheuven et al. 2012) and or effects, *e.g.* radiative properties (Lieke et  
313 al. 2011). The derived information from electron microscope data can be converted into quantifiable relevant  
314 metrics and assessed on a statistical basis (Weinbruch et al. 2018, Kandler et al. 2011). Current advancements in  
315 image analyses of transmission electron microscope images make it possible to derive primary particle size and  
316 specific surface area of nanoparticle aggregates (Bourrous et al. 2018) and nanoparticle structure relating to their  
317 composition (Malmborg et al., 2019); online aerosol detection with mass spectrometry enables analysis of  
318 increasingly complex chemistry (Nozière et al., 2015; Butler et al., 2018); and the revolution in molecular biology  
319 and genome sequencing have opened completely new opportunities to study biological aerosols (Mbareche et al.,  
320 2017). Long, insoluble fibers can to date only be identified by using combined methods in microscopy and  
321 spectroscopy (Kling et al. 2015). Considering regulatory nanofiber counting to comply with existing recommended  
322 provisional limit values, there is an urgent need to develop and validate both particle sampling and electron  
323 microscopy image analysis techniques (Koivisto et al. 2018b; Brostrøm et al., in review).

## 324 *5.2 Measurement of biologically relevant particle properties*

325 Commonly used exposure/dose limit values are derived from NOAELs (*e.g.* Hristozov et al., 2016, 2018; Koivisto  
326 et al., 2016; Tsang et al., 2017; Pizzol et al., *in press*), integrated exposure-response functions (IERS; GBD, 2017b;  
327 Pope et al., 2018), human equivalent dose-responses (*e.g.* a daily no significant risk dose level; Thompson et al.,  
328 2016), and micro-organisms infectivity potency (Teunis et al., 2008; Hamilton et al. 2017). The majority of the  
329 exposure/dose-response studies rely on mass, even though it is known to be only a rough indicator for a  
330 biologically effective dose of the complex mixture of airborne particles; especially in the work environment (*e.g.*



331 Kuempel et al., 2014; Braakhuis et al., 2016; Noël et al., 2017; Fadeel et al., 2018). Other biologically relevant  
332 metrics, such as number and surface-area, needs to be considered as well, depending on the aerosol particle  
333 properties. For example, the total particle BET surface area ( $\text{cm}^2$ ) instilled in rats and mice lungs was recognized  
334 to correlate well with polymorphonuclear neutrophilia (PMN) for low solubility and low toxicity particles as well  
335 as some transition metal oxides (Schmid and Stoeger, 2016). PMN is a strong indicator for lung inflammation and  
336 forming acute phase response protein that cause plaque formation in the blood vessels causing cardiovascular  
337 diseases (Saber et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2018). Koivisto et al. (2016) used the relation of surface area dose  
338 and PMN influx to predict first order estimates of workers risk suffering pulmonary inflammation during an 8-  
339 hour exposure. This is a potential technique to predict exposure risks of low solubility low toxicity particles and  
340 transition metal and metal oxide particles by assessing inhaled surface area doses. Such relations between exposure  
341 and health effects needs to be derived for different pollutants and their relevant health effects in order to select the  
342 best methods for on-line risk monitoring techniques.

343 Microbial pollution in indoor air is traditionally estimated based on total bacterial and fungal concentrations  
344 present in the air measured as colony-forming units (CFU)  $\text{m}^{-3}$  by cultivation of air samples on non-selective agar  
345 (ACGHI, 1986). Although this can be used as indication of air quality, human pathogens, capable of causing illness  
346 even in low concentrations, may still be present. Identification of potential pathogens that could pose a health risk  
347 upon exposure and investigations of microbial diversity may therefore be crucial for assessment of health effects.  
348 Specific pathogens can be measured as CFU  $\text{m}^{-3}$  by cultivation on selective medium or as genomic copies  $\text{m}^{-3}$  by  
349 using molecular-based methods such as qPCR. Although, the latter lacks the ability to differentiate between  
350 infectious and non-infectious organisms, it is often used for assessing exposure to non-culturable and slow-  
351 growing microorganisms e.g. viruses (*e.g.* Uhrbrand et al., 2011, 2017a, 2017b). Bioaerosol diversity can be  
352 assessed as relative genomic abundance  $\text{m}^{-3}$  of air by sequencing when viability is not important (*e.g.* Madsen et  
353 al., 2015; Fang et al., 2018), while MALDI-TOF identification can used be to quantitatively study the diversity of  
354 culturable bacteria and fungi as CFU  $\text{m}^{-3}$  (*e.g.* Uhrbrand et al., 2017a; Madsen et al., 2016).

### 355 *5.3 Assessment of particle emission rates*

356 Currently, the source emission rate testing standards and guidelines for airborne pollutants are designed mainly  
357 for gaseous emissions (European Communities, 1991; ASTM, 1997, 2001). Particle emission source  
358 characterization methods exists for well-controlled chamber studies (*e.g.* Rauert et al., 2014; Morgeneyer et al.,  
359 2015; Torkmahalleh et al., 2017; Boor et al., 2017), as well as for measurements performed in built environments,  
360 such as residential houses (He et al., 2004; Hussein et al., 2005), classrooms (*e.g.* Bhangar et al., 2014), and  
361 occupational environments (Koivisto et al., 2014, 2018c). However, guidelines and standard methods for particle  
362 source characterization are needed for assuring quality of the emission rate assessment and sampling and  
363 characterization of the physio-chemical properties of the released particles. For bioaerosols, methods should be  
364 able to quantitatively detect and discriminate between specific human pathogenic and non-pathogenic micro-  
365 organisms (*e.g.* Uhrbrand et al., 2017a). Size-resolved particle emission rates are needed for mass flow analysis,  
366 and because there is no clear consensus of relevant metrics, for particle hazard assessment (EN ISO 28439; CEN  
367 FprEN 17058:2018 E). Procedures for determination of aerosolization of fungal spores using a particle-laboratory  
368 field emission cell has been developed and used for controlled human exposure assessments (Kildesø et al. 2003;  
369 Meyer et al., 2005).

### 370 *5.4 Particle emission source descriptors and ontology*

371 Reliability of an exposure assessment model depends on user inputs. Thus, an ontology including all descriptors  
372 needs to be designed so that the users can identify the processes and sources with reasonable accuracy. This  
373 requires agreement on emission rate assessment in biologically relevant metrics, measurement of particle  
374 properties, ontology and descriptors for the processes causing emissions. A Danish EPA (Miljøprojekt nr. 1800,  
375 2015) and the EU FP7 SUN project (FP7, EC-GA No. 604305) developed a preliminary structure for an particle  
376 emission library for articles and products containing nanomaterials (Table 2). The emission library development  
377 continues in the EU Nano Safety Cluster task force (<https://www.nanosafetycluster.eu/>) by developing an ontology  
378 of the parameters used to describe particle emission sources and revising the library format so that it meets the

379 requirements for both human and environmental risk assessment. Harmonized ontology is needed for both source,  
380 *i.e.* process, and the emissions reporting. The GRACIOUS project (EU H2020, EC-GA No.760840) will continue  
381 the work by developing rules for source read-across extrapolation for products containing nanomaterials.

### 382 *5.5 Exposure modelling*

383 A comprehensive indoor exposure model comprising both gaseous and particle emissions from outdoors via  
384 ventilation, passive sources (*e.g.* building materials), and processes (*i.e.* indoor activities) can be used to  
385 understand most relevant exposure determinants. Outdoor exposure levels can be estimated from regulatory  
386 environmental measurements and by using atmospheric air pollution models (*e.g.* Hvidtfelt et al. 2018; Jensen et  
387 al. 2017). The model can be combined with the emission library and exposure control library where the user can  
388 select correct parameters for describing indoor activity emissions. Such models exist for gas pollutants, such as  
389 *e.g.* PANDORA, MOEEBIUS or CONTAM, but models combined with comprehensive particle emission library  
390 are needed.

391 In model development, comprehensive aerosol measurements are needed for model performance testing,  
392 calibration, and understanding parameterization of different exposure scenarios for top-down modeling. Default  
393 exposure scenarios need to cover parameters such as building properties, sources, emission controls, and activities.  
394 Currently, personal or environmental exposure modeling exclude gas-particle interactions mainly because the  
395 source emission compositions are rarely well defined (Hopke, 2016), and detection techniques of atmospheric  
396 organic compounds suffer limitations (Nozière et al., 2015). However, when the information becomes more  
397 available, there are relatively simple models applicable to estimate the phase of chemical species in an aerosol  
398 using mass balance models (*e.g.* Liu et al., 2013; Liagkouridis et al., 2014). Such processes are needed to estimate  
399 the uptake of semi-volatile compounds, such as PAHs, where particles effect on the semi-VOCs uptake. In  
400 addition, it is clear that in many indoor environments, it is likely that photochemically formed aerosol components  
401 are readily available and may strongly contribute to the aerosol mass and number as well as various removal  
402 processes.

## 403 *5.6 Parameterization of dispersion model*

404 The model needs to be parameterized by respecting the user needs and available information with respect to the  
405 current exposure assessment standards. For example, the consumer exposure assessment should follow the ECHA  
406 R.15 recommendations where the room volume is 20 m<sup>3</sup> and the air exchange is 0.6 h<sup>-1</sup>. Model complexity can  
407 always be reduced with parametrization, which is a benefit of multi-compartment models with complex ventilation  
408 designs. Nymark et al., (in preparation) designed a default parameterization for an exposure assessment along a  
409 Cooper-like stage-gate idea-to product launch scheme as part of the EU H2020 caLIBRAte project  
410 ([www.nanocalibrate.eu](http://www.nanocalibrate.eu)). In their proposal, the parameterization complexity of the source and dispersion model  
411 increases accordingly the knowledge of the product and exposure situation; the less information available, the  
412 more conservative the exposure prediction is. Such an approach can enable material producers or product users to  
413 predict conservative estimates for worst-case material/application users for top-down exposure estimates, and vice  
414 versa, estimation of exposure levels in well-defined conditions.

415 Top-down exposure assessment is required when a material producer or importer assesses human exposure risks  
416 of material use in unspecified exposure scenarios. For such assessment, default personal exposure scenarios (*e.g.*  
417 pouring filler in a mixing tank) are needed, which can be analogous to OECD emission scenario documents that  
418 form the basis for estimating the concentration of chemicals in the environment (OECD, 2017). Default  
419 parameterization of the ventilation and interzonal airflows in indoor exposure scenarios needs to be based on  
420 measured values (U.S. EPA, 1994, Liu et al., 2018). Currently, in ECHA R.14 and R.15 guidance, parameterization  
421 of the models are based on mutual agreement rather than measured values even though the data is available (see  
422 Table 3 and 4 for interzonal airflows and ventilation rate in occupational settings and residences, respectively).  
423 Facilitating exposure scenario development requires systematic measurement and reporting methods, such as the  
424 Industrial Hygiene Exposure Scenario Tool (IHEST), which is freely available and guides the exposure assessor  
425 through the collection and documentation of these details (Arnold et al., 2017). Further, it can be used to assess  
426 the critical exposure determinants used in mass balance models.

427 *5.7 Regulatory exposure assessment*

428 The U.S. EPA (2009) provides comprehensive guidance for a model development and evaluation for a regulatory  
429 decision-making. Well-documented and generally accepted models may be required if modelling results are used  
430 in an expert witness's scientific testimony. In the USA, the *Daubert* standard is widely used to assess whether  
431 expert witnesses scientific testimony is methodologically valid (*Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*,  
432 509 U.S. 579, 1993; Raul and Dwyer, 2003). The standard provides five criteria that may be used to assess the  
433 validity of the methodology:

- 434 1) Is applicable and has been tested.
- 435 2) Has been subjected to peer review and is generally accepted.
- 436 3) The rate of error is known and acceptable.
- 437 4) The existence and maintenance of standards and controls concerning the operation.
- 438 5) Is generally accepted in the relevant scientific community.

439 In regards to human exposure assessment, Jayjock et al. (2011) challenged the NF/FF model for these criteria in  
440 the context of an industrial hygienist providing a testimony for gaseous pollution exposure assessment. The  
441 conclusion was that when the NF/FF model fulfils the *Daubert* criteria and when it is used within its stated  
442 limitations, it simulates adequately the conditions. Later studies support this conclusion (Hofstetter et al., 2013;  
443 Earnest and Corsi, 2013; Arnold et al., 2017). Based on 63 case studies, the NF/FF model is shown to have good  
444 predictive power for PM exposure assessment as well when high quality input values can be derived or are  
445 available (Table 1; Jayjock et al., 2011). The single-compartment model has similarly been demonstrated to  
446 accurately predict exposures in well-mixed rooms and detailed knowledge of emission rates and ventilation rates  
447 (Arnold et al., 2017; Arnold et al. *in Press*). This provides strong indication that properly designed and used models  
448 based on mathematical mass balance are applicable for regulatory decision-making as well as juridical procedures  
449 when representative measured exposure data is not available. Similarly, as Jayjock et al (2011) evaluated the

450 NF/FF model regulatory acceptance and recommended reviewing the exposure assessment tools used under  
451 REACH regulation.

## 452 *5.8 Impact on society*

453 On a global scale air quality needs to be improved healthier for humans and environment. Indoor air consisting of  
454 outdoor aerosols and indoor aerosol emissions is a dominant exposure route for humans. The impact of indoor  
455 sources on IAQ becomes increasingly more important as buildings become more airtight, ventilation air is  
456 recirculated and new materials, products, and processes are being introduced (McDonald et al., 2018). A holistic  
457 understanding of the emission sources and dispersion of particles is needed for IAQ assessment and management.  
458 Currently, there is no mandatory particle emission labeling for products or processes that people use in their  
459 everyday life. This is one reason why determinants for IAQ are not well known. Systematic mapping and reporting  
460 of the emission sources is needed for effective mitigation for air pollution in residences, public domains, and  
461 occupational environments. One potential measure might be an emission index label for products, which is based  
462 on the fraction of material released per amount of processed material ( $\text{mg kg}^{-1}$ ). A measure for product emissions  
463 is needed to make people aware of their role in a clean ambient environment.

464 Emission libraries combined with mass balance models is applicable for finding biologically relevant components  
465 for human health through epidemiological studies. A properly designed mass balance model with well characterized  
466 sources, emission controls, and activities fulfills requirements for regulatory exposure assessment and would be  
467 applicable for all particles from natural or incidental sources, as well as for manufactured nanomaterials. Such  
468 tools would be widely applicable for atmospheric research, epidemiological and toxicological studies, industry at  
469 both occupational hygiene and safe product development, and public health and environmental professionals to  
470 understand exposure determinants. Accuracy in exposure/risk assessment is needed to assure a lower probability  
471 of underestimating or overestimating the human health hazards associated with product use. The advantage of not  
472 underestimating exposure/risk are obvious considering the precautionary principle, but the societal costs of  
473 overestimating and over-regulating risk could also be grave.

## 474 **6. Conclusions**

475 Investment in good air quality is an efficient way to increase quality of life in both developed and developing  
476 countries. The most effective approach to improve air quality is to prevent the emissions at the source. This requires  
477 knowledge of the materials, processes, and activities that cause emissions. The best approach to identify aerosol  
478 emission sources are systematic measurements, which are recorded into an emission library and made widely  
479 available for scientific and administrative uses. When the pollution components and particle properties are  
480 sufficiently characterized, their impact on human health and the environment can be estimated; thus enabling  
481 efficient risk control actions. Currently, there exist mass balance models for estimating mass flows and dynamic  
482 transformations of gases and aerosols and libraries that comprise mainly gaseous emissions (*e.g.* PANDORA) and  
483 exposure controls in work environments. Emission libraries for aerosol particles are currently just emerging. For  
484 top-down modeling, we need exposure scenarios to understand the potential impact of the sources to IAQ. Good  
485 modeling methods based on mathematical mass balance have been designed decades ago, which should be taken  
486 into efficient use (*e.g.* MOEEBIUS). The current need is to improve the model parameterization such that it reflects  
487 better the reality, which requires high quality release rate data and exposure measurements for model testing. Good  
488 knowledge of size-resolved particle and gas emission sources in combination with well parameterized mass  
489 balance models give us comprehensive picture of factors influencing our atmospheric environment.

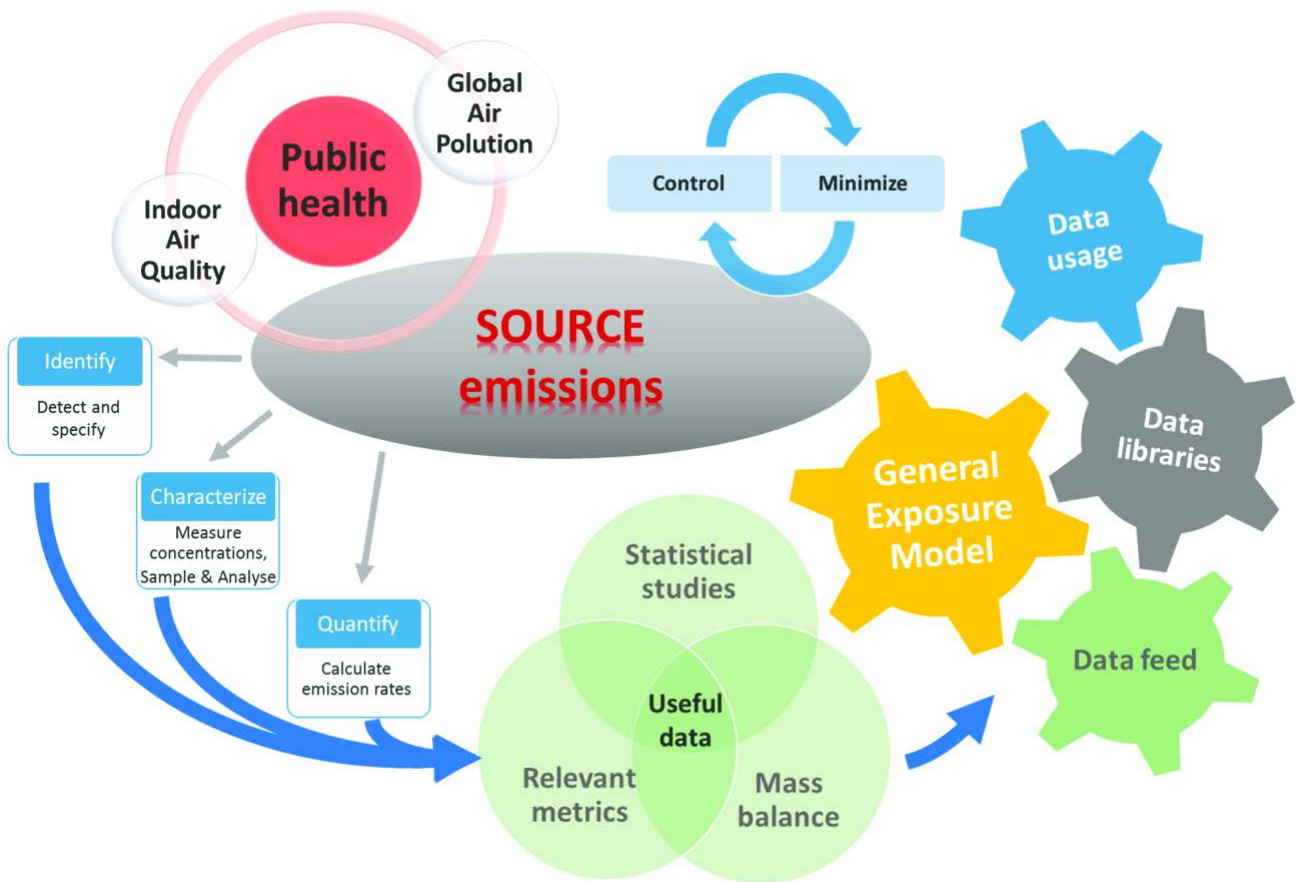
490

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499

500 Graphical abstract

501

502 **Table 1.** Ratios of predicted concentrations and measured concentrations. An update of Jayjock et al. (2011)

Scenario description	Study	Ratio of predicted and measured value
8 scenarios: Iron foundry, Dry wall finishing, weighing and transferring, mixing and cleaning	Arnold et al. (2017)	GM <sup>a</sup> 1.46, GSD 1.89 <sup>b</sup>
6 scenarios: welding at two different environments (total particulate, Fe, Mn)	Boelter et al. (2009)	GM 1.08, GSD 1.25
17 test in emission rooms with volumes of 203, 169, and 8 m <sup>3</sup> : Dry wall joint compound sanding using various tools.	Jones et al. (2011)	GM 1.08, GSD 2.54
7 Pouring scenarios at paint factory (500 kg and 25 kg sacks)	Koivisto et al. (2015a)	GM 1.01, GSD 2.32
Medical laser-generated particulate matter exposures at operating room and treatment room.	Lopez et al. (2015)	Modelled NF concentrations were between 170 and 340 µg m <sup>-3</sup> , while measured were up to 246 µg m <sup>-3</sup> .
Packing of inorganic fertilizer into 25 kg and 600 kg bags.	Ribalta et al. (2019)	M <sup>c</sup> 0.88, SD <sup>d</sup> 0.25 M 0.82, SD 0.12

503 <sup>a</sup>Geometric mean (GM); <sup>b</sup>Geometric standard deviation (GSD); <sup>c</sup>Mean (M); <sup>d</sup>Standard deviation (SD)

504

505 **Table 2.** Structure of the emission library designed in the SUN project. Colors indicate different descriptor groups.

DESCRIPTOR	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTOR GROUP
Study	Reference	
Process	Process overview	<b>Process descriptors</b>
Process details	Description of process(es)	
Process rate (g sec <sup>-1</sup> )	Material production, use, or removal rate	
Matrix	General description of the matrix	<b>Material descriptors</b>
Matrix details	Description of the matrix	
NM	NM composition	
NM vendor	NM manufacturer or supplier	
NM product name	NM name	
NM concentration (wt.%)	NM concentration in the matrix	
NM state	State of ENM(s): pristine, embedded into matrix, surface bound, incorporated, impregnated, dispersion, surface bound, ...	
MN PP size (nm)	NM primary particle size or NM dimensions	
Other information for materials and methods		
Released fragments	Description of released fragments	<b>Emission descriptors</b>
Fragments density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Density of released particles	
Notes	Relevant information regarding uncertainties, assumptions, and boundary conditions	
<i>S</i> (units sec <sup>-1</sup> )	Emission rates where units can be number, surface area, or (respirable) mass.	<b>Emission rates</b> described with log-normal distribution parameters
GMD (μm)	Geometric mean diameter	
GSD	Geometric standard deviation	
<i>D<sub>p,i</sub></i>	Geometric mean diameter of size channel <i>i</i>	<b>Emission rates</b> measured values
<i>dS<sub>i</sub></i> (units sec <sup>-1</sup> )	Emission rate of channel <i>i</i>	
<i>dlog(D<sub>p,i</sub>)</i>	Logarithmic (10-based) width of size channel <i>i</i>	
Expected effect levels, limit values	E.g. OEL, NOAEL (units m <sup>-3</sup> ), IER (units m <sup>-3</sup> ), dose-response (units g <sup>-1</sup> bw <sup>-1</sup> ), where bw is body weight.	<b>Hazard descriptors</b>

506

507 **Table 3.** Default parameterization of the interzonal flows in occupational exposure scenarios.

Source/location	Study	Number of measurements	Face velocity/volume flow through NF volume.	Comments
<b>Inter-zonal ventilation (<math>\beta</math>)</b>				
Indoor workplaces	Baldwin and Maynard (1998)	55 work areas within 27 different factories	12 m min <sup>-1</sup> (0.04-0.72 m min <sup>-1</sup> ) GM <sup>a</sup> 3.6 m min <sup>-1</sup> , GSD <sup>b</sup> 1.96	
Indoor workplaces	Berry and Froude (1989)	16 workers in 6 workplaces	12 m min <sup>-1</sup> (6 – 94 m min <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>c</sup>	
Offices	Thorshauge (1982)	12 different offices	3 - 24 m min <sup>-1</sup>	
Naturally ventilated industrial building with heat sources	Wang et al. (2016)	4 locations	18 - 90 m min <sup>-1</sup>	
Rooms ranging from 79 to 1137 m <sup>3</sup>	Keil and Zhao (2017)	From 5 to 8 experiments in 12 rooms	4.0 m min <sup>-1</sup> (0.33–15.6 m min <sup>-1</sup> )	Effect of worker motion, room volume, and general ventilation was studied
Simulation in industrial environment	Keil (2015)	34 (mid-room) and 27 (side of room)	GM 2.14 m <sup>3</sup> min <sup>-1</sup> , GSD 1.81 (mid-room)  1.19 m <sup>3</sup> min <sup>-1</sup> , GSD 1.54 (side of room)	Robot arm simulating the work

508 <sup>a</sup>Geometric mean (GM); <sup>b</sup>Geometric standard deviation (GSD); <sup>c</sup>Averages of static and personal measurements  
 509 and excluding fume cupboard face velocity when used.

510



512 **Table 4.** Default parameterization of general ventilation and interzonal flows in consumer exposure scenarios.

Source/location	Study	Number of measurements	GM <sup>a</sup> (h <sup>-1</sup> ) / Range	GSD <sup>b</sup>
<b>General ventilation rates (<math>Q_{FF}</math>)</b>				
HouseDB database	Jayjock and Havics (2018)	603	0.39	1.8
Japan	Shinohara et al. (2011)	26	0.38-1.4	
Residence, summer, occupied	Liu et al. (2018)	8-weeks of continuous measurements	0.47	1.6
Residence, winter, occupied		5-weeks of continuous measurements	0.33	1.3
<b>Inter-zonal ventilation (<math>\beta</math>)</b>				
HouseDB database	Jayjock and Havics (2018)	603	0.51	2.05
Danish bedrooms	Bekö et al. (2010; 2011)	500	0.46	2.08
Danish residences	Bekö et al. (2016)	5	0.36-1.67	
Swedish bedrooms	Bornehag et al. (2005)	390	0.31-0.47	
Basements and garages at Boston	Dodson et al. (2007)	45	1.1	
Japan	Shinohara et al. (2011)	26	0.42-1.6	

513 <sup>a</sup>Geometric mean (GM); <sup>b</sup>Geometric standard deviation (GSD)

514

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