

Building materials often become wet, resulting in mold growth that leads to health and productivity impacts, as well as to liability and lawsuits. It has been estimated that upwards of 40% of all homes in North America contain fungal growth. The rapid growth and dispersion of mold can induce allergy and asthma episodes, and sometimes produces severe illnesses including pulmonary, immunologic, neurological and oncogenic disorders. Removal of growth substrates from building materials, or the incorporation of antimicrobial agents in the manufacturing of building products may prevent mold growth and the spread of biological contaminants. This talk will focus on the development of standardized testing methods and subsequent product verification, of microbial resistant building materials, through the EPA's Environmental Technology Verification - Environmental and Sustainable Technology Evaluation (ETV-ESTE) program. The Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program was initiated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in October, 1995. This program was set up to provide credible performance information for commercial-ready technologies to help solve high risk environmental problems. ETV seeks to establish or confirm the performance of a technology under specific, predetermined criteria or protocols and rigorous QA procedures; however ETV does not pass / fail, approve, or certify technologies.