

# AIRCRAFT AIR QUALITY INFO CARD

## COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR AFA SAFETY & HEALTH MEC

### (What you need to know if you get sick.)



**WHAT TO DO...  
WHO TO CALL  
HOW TO REPORT  
WHERE TO GET MORE INFO**



US Airways' flight attendants have long reported health problems after **exposure to oil or hydraulic fluid fumes** that enter the cabin via the aircraft air supply. Sometimes the symptoms can be very serious and long-lasting, including memory loss, fatigue, tingling in the hands and feet, headaches, breathing difficulties, and muscle pain. Other times, the symptoms may be less serious and last for a few days or weeks, but are still unpleasant and may put you at risk of more serious symptoms if you are exposed again.

Oil fumes don't happen on every flight, but they happen often enough.

Usually people notice a **peculiar odor** (dirty socks, wet dog, oily, chemically, etc) and may even see a **smoke or a mist**. In some cases, you may not smell or see anything, but you may still feel sick.

To help remind you of what to do if you are exposed, AFA has printed these yellow air quality information cards. **Wear your air quality information card behind your airline ID** so you have the information at your fingertips if you are exposed to fumes in the cabin.

- The card tells you who to call at the union.
- The card reminds you what paperwork you need to fill out with the company.
- The card emphasizes the need to go to a doctor to document your symptoms. Many doctors have not heard about oil or hydraulic fumes on aircraft making people sick, so make sure you bring your doctor a copy of the FAA-funded guide for health care providers titled "**Exposure to Aircraft Bleed Air Contaminants Among Airline Workers.**" This guide is free and posted at [www.afausairways.org/safety.htm](http://www.afausairways.org/safety.htm).
- Finally, the card directs you to the MEC website where you can print information to get your blood tested **to help you prove exposure to some very toxic engine oil additives**. Airlines can not claim that you were exposed to these oil additives while gardening or working on your car. The changes in your blood caused by exposure to engine oil don't last forever (even though your symptoms can last a long time), so **you need to get your blood tested within three months of exposure at the latest, but preferably within the first week**. You can supply this proof of exposure to your physician(s) to increase the likelihood that any workers' compensation claim you file for related ill-health will be approved.

**Fly safe and be smart about aircraft air quality.**