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Media Release

## **CASE TEST: AIR PURIFIERS**

### **A test on seven air purifiers by CASE found that most performed to the specifications as stated in their product specifications**

A test on seven air purifiers by CASE found that most performed to the specifications as stated in their product specifications. However, one of them failed to perform as claimed.

Please refer to 'Annex: Test Results for Air Purifiers test' for more information.

CASE commissioned the test in April 2013 because of the recent trend of consumers purchasing air purifiers to improve the air quality in their environment. CASE wanted to ascertain that the performance of the air purifiers matches the representation in their advertisements. The seven air purifiers were purchased off the shelf from large electrical retailers, and most of them were manufactured by recognised retail brands.

Results show that the model F-PMF35A from Panasonic did not perform as claimed in the advertisement. It was advertised to be able to inhibit 99% mould, fungus and bacteria. However, the results from the total bacteria count and the test from total yeast and mould count showed that elimination rate was less than 99%. CASE has met up and advised Panasonic to either withdraw or amend their claims.

The performance for all the air purifiers tested varies from one brand to the other. With the test results, we can conclude that most air purifiers are able to reduce total bacteria count, but their performance ranges from between 73.5% to 99.39%. The brand which showed the highest elimination rate for bacteria count is from Novita, and the brand which showed the lowest elimination rate for bacteria count is from Maier.

The elimination rate for total mould and yeast count also varies from between 50% to 87.14%. The model which showed the highest elimination rate for yeast and mould count is from Maier, and the model which showed the lowest elimination rate for yeast and mould count is from Mistral.

The test was conducted using Merck MAS-100 Air Sampler for a duration of 0 minute and 60 minutes. Air purifiers were tested individually in a room while

operating at their highest speed mode. The same room was used for all the tests. After each test was conducted, the room was left to rest for a few hours to allow bacteria levels to increase before conducting the next test.

There is no agency in Singapore currently that regulates the performance of air-purifying products. However, NEA Pollution Control Department keeps a list of portable air cleaners (able to reduce the level of fine particles to an acceptable level during smoke haze) at [http://app2.nea.gov.sg/anti-pollution-radiation-protection/air-pollution/haze/portable-air-cleaners---list-of-portable-air-cleaners-\(for-smoke-haze\)-and-suppliers](http://app2.nea.gov.sg/anti-pollution-radiation-protection/air-pollution/haze/portable-air-cleaners---list-of-portable-air-cleaners-(for-smoke-haze)-and-suppliers). There are also no international standards associated with air purifiers. CASE would like to urge the relevant authorities to look into this gap.

CASE conducts regular tests on consumer products to keep tab of the low cost products sold in the market. Frequent testing ensures that businesses will uphold the quality and safety standards of their products. CASE is committed to protect the interests of the consumers. We will continue to highlight any unfair/unsafe practices in the marketplace. At the same time, we also urge consumers to be more discerning and exercise caution to protect their own interests.

CASE advises consumers to compare prices and performance of air purifiers between brands before deciding which brand and model to purchase. Consumers are advised to read instructions manuals or user guides on utilizing the air purifiers if they are available. Any small print on the device should be taken into considerations before making the purchase.

It is advised to approach the relevant retail business should there be a need for further assistance.

Lim Biow Chuan  
President  
CASE