

FINAL REPORT- Part 1 & Part 2

Customer Name Customer Address	Shaw Industries Group Inc 1010 VD Parrott Jr Pkwy,
Contact	Dalton, GA 10722, USA Paul Murray
Sample Description	Carpet
Number of Samples	9
Commencement	November, 2010
Date Project Number	ASCR001993
Report Date	April 2012



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Test Item Description:

The following samples were received from Shaw Industries Group Inc:

Sample No.	Flooring type	Description		
Hard Floor 1	Hard Floor	Epic Hardwood, style: Symphonic 5" color #774 Red		
		Oak Natural		
Carpet 1	Carpet	Nylon 6		
Carpet 2	Carpet	Nylon 6		
Carpet 3	Carpet	Unbranded N6 Broadloom, 'Full of Life' style #52N09.		
		Face weight ~25oz/yd		
Carpet 4	Carpet	ANSO Broadloom (medium pile height): Style: Anso		
		nylon textured cut pile (low, tight and dense		
		construction) called Sandy Hollow I, style # Q4273.		
		Face weight is approximately 40 oz./yd.		
Carpet 5	Carpet	ANSO Broadloom (high/shaggy pile height): Style:		
		Anso nylon cut pile in a loose, high pile (shag)		
		construction called Design Statement, style # Q397		
		Face weight is approximately 50 oz./yd.		
Carpet 6	Carpet	BCF PET Broadloom: Style: QS050, High twist, high		
		pile 38 oz.		
Carpet 7	Carpet	Unbranded N6 Broadloom, 'Full of Life' style #52N09.		
		Face weight ~25oz/yd. WITHOUT R2X		
Carpet 8	Carpet	Unbranded N6 Broadloom, 'Full of Life' style #52N09.		
		Face weight ~25oz/yd. WITH R2X		



Introduction:

Many medical, educational and patient bodies have arrived at the general conclusion that carpets in the home represent a health hazard to individuals and in particular those with asthma and allergic diseases. The body of work to be performed by ASC intends to provide to Shaw the definitive scientific data to be able to evaluate this standpoint.

As has been discussed with Shaw, those bodies mentioned above, and the scientific community at large, would require incontrovertible, basic scientific and clinical evidence that properly maintained carpeting in the home of an asthmatic/allergic individual does not represent a risk factor for disease.

This requires that the testing performed is of the highest quality, particularly where test performance, analysis and interpretation are concerned. The commissioning of an environmental test chamber plays a central role in this. The chamber that has been built at ASC's test facilities is to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) specifications with upgrades to allow for complete control over all environmental parameters.

Flooring coverings were received from Shaw Industries Group Inc. in 2010 and 2011. Samples were stored as delivered until required for testing. Carpets were cut to size, and prior to installation and testing all carpets were vacuumed as per IEC60312, i.e. to ensure an excess of fibre did not remain on the carpet, they were vacuumed until the fibre being removed was <0.1g/m².

A further element was agreed with Shaw following review of all data obtained from study of the original six carpets. Given the presence of R2X treatment on some of the carpets, it was felt necessary to determine whether this modality was impacting particle retention by individual carpets. An addendum to the study was agreed to address this question (see Carpets 7 and 8 above).



Procedure:

Test Chamber

Each of the nine floor types (Hard Floor 1 and carpets 1-8) were individually tested in the $28.5m^3$ Environmental Test Chamber which had a floor area of $11.4 m^2$. Each floor type was laid so it completely covered the chamber floor. Test Protocols Part I (Allergen Testing) and Part II (Bioaerosol Testing) were conducted at $21^{\circ}C \pm 3^{\circ}C$, $55\% \pm 5\%$ relative humidity (RH) with an air exchange rate of 1.0/hour.

The flooring was allowed to equilibrate overnight under these conditions before testing commenced. During natural decay, room disturbance and cleaning, serial airborne particle counts, surface and airborne allergen/bioaerosol measurements were undertaken for each floor type. See Part I and Part II Test Protocols below.

Part I: Allergen Testing

Allergen Test dust (ATD) of known composition, containing Cat allergen; *Fel d1*, House Dust Mite Allergen; *Der p1* and Pollen; *Phl p5* (Code TD104) was introduced into the chamber via an entry port using compressed air @ >50psi. The ATD was distributed using a mounted ceiling fan. 12g of ATD was introduced at each of 4 introductions over 2 days giving a final ATD concentration of $4g/m^2$. See Part I Test Protocol below for the testing outline.

Sampling Methodologies

Airborne particles ranging in size from 0.3 to 3^{ss}m were counted using a CLIMET laser diffraction particle counter. Background particle counts were taken at the start of each day. Particle counts were then taken at each stage of the Part 1 Test Protocol shown below.

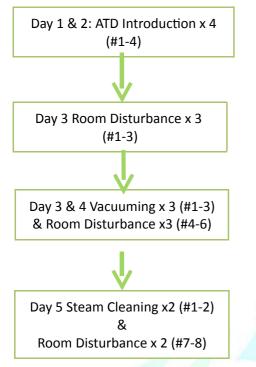
Surface allergen samples (0.25m²) were taken in duplicate using mitestTM filters after each stage of the Part 1 Test Protocol. Samples were analysed for *Der p1*, *Fel d1* and *Phl p5* by allergen-specific ELISA.

Airborne allergen samples were collected onto filter cassettes (at 0.75m and 1.5m heights) using Side Kick pumps (2L/min) during each stage of the Part 1 Test Protocol. Samples were analysed for *Der p1* and *Fel d1* by augmented ELISA.



Part I Test Protocol

The testing proceeded in the following manner:



Appendix 1A is a quick reference guide to show the performance of each carpet at each testing stage. Part I test results are outlined in Appendix I of this report for Hard Floor and Carpets 1-6. Part I test results are outlined in Appendix III of this report for Carpets 7&8. The results relate to particle, airborne and surface allergen data.

Part II: Bioaerosol Testing:

After Part I testing was completed, the eight carpets were steam cleaned, allowed to dry and stored until required. An identical hard floor was supplied by Shaw for this part of the project, as it was not possible to re-use the initial hard floor.

For Bioaerosol Testing, carpets were laid in the test chamber as before and the chamber was operated under the same conditions as for part 1 testing. During natural decay, room disturbance and cleaning, serial airborne particle counts, surface and airborne bioaerosol measurements were undertaken for each floor type.

See Part II Test Protocol below for the testing outline.



Bioaerosols

1. Bacteria

Staphylococcus epidermidis, a universal human skin contaminant, was aerosolized into the chamber via a Collision Jet nebuliser, attached to a compressor set at 20psi, which was located outside the chamber. After 20min, aerosolisation of the bacteria was complete.

2. Viruses

MS2 coliphage, a surrogate for human respiratory viruses, was aerosolized into the chamber via a Collision Jet nebuliser, attached to a compressor set at 20psi, which was located outside the chamber. After 20min, aerosolisation of the virus was complete.

3. Fungi

Dry *Aspergillus niger* spores, a common airborne fungus, mixed with ISO Fine Dust were aerosolized into the chamber under >50psi pressure.

The bioaerosols were distributed in the chamber using a mounted ceiling fan.

Sampling Methodologies

Particle counting, using a laser diffraction particle counter, was performed at all stages of testing, as outlined in Part II Test Protocol below. Particle counts in the size range of 0.3 to 3^{ss}m were recorded. Background counts were taken at the start of each day prior to bioaerosol introduction and room disturbance.

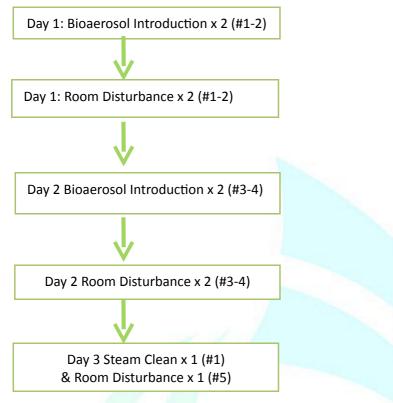
Air samples were collected for 5min duration onto a biostage impactor, operated under vacuum at 28.5L/min at each of the test stages of the Part II Test Protocol below. The air samples were collected onto 2 selective agars specifically for the growth of *A.niger* and *S.epidermidis*.

Air samples were collected into sample buffer with an SKC Biosampler, operated under vacuum at 12.5L/min, and analysed for MS2 coliphage. Sampling duration was 30min per SKC sample.



Part II Test Protocol

The testing proceeded in the following manner:



Appendix IIA is a quick reference guide to show the performance of each carpet at each testing stage

Part II test results are outlined in Appendix II of this report for Hard Floor 1 and Carpets 1-6. Part II test results are outlined in Appendix IV of this report for Carpets 7 & 8. The results relate to particle counts, surface and airborne bioaerosol recovery data.

Part I Conclusion (Carpets 1-6)- ATD

Test dust introduction

- P Particle sizes relevant in an allergen bearing sense (1^{ss}m and >3.0^{2ss}m) became airborne to the greatest extent on Hard Floor 1, they became airborne in the carpet samples to a significantly lesser extent
- ^y Carpet 3 consistently showed the lowest levels of particles in the air
- Carpets 4-6 provided difficulty in recovery of surface allergen, probably associated with pile height dimension



Room disturbance

- P Airborne allergen measurements were greater during room disturbance for Hard
 Floor 1, Carpets 1, 2 and 4 at particle sizes of 1^{ss}m and >3.0^{2ss}m
- ^p Surface allergen appeared to be driven into Carpet 3 following room disturbance, hence lower levels of airborne allergen were detected
- ^y Carpet 4 and 6 released allergen into the air following room disturbance

Vacuuming and Room Disturbance

- Vacuuming exaggerated the differences observed between airborne allergen levels for hard floor versus carpet 3, in particular
- P Successive vacuuming brought particle counts down to almost baseline levels for the hard floor
- ^y The same trend was seen for the Carpets, but to a lesser extent
- P Carpet 3 showed increasing amounts of surface allergen as vacuuming progressed, which was likely to be due to allergen particles previously 'driven in,' being slowly released
- ^v Vacuuming appeared to be effective at removing surface allergen from Carpets 4-6.

Steam Cleaning and Room Disturbance

- ^{IV} The pressure of steam applied to the carpets resulted in a peak in particle counts for all carpets tested, with counts remaining elevated for Carpet 2, 4 and 6
- ^p Steam Cleaning was most effective on Carpets 1, 3 and 5 and least effective on Carpet 2
- P Steam cleaning appeared to be an effective addition to vacuum cleaning in terms of allergen removal

Part II Conclusion- (Carpets 1-6)- Bioaerosols

Bioaerosol Introduction and Room Disturbances

- P There was no appreciable difference between particle counts associated with bioaerosol introduction for any of the floorings. This finding is unsurprising in view of particle sizes.
- Room disturbance does show some differences for hard floor and certain carpets,
 again hard floor is greatest followed by carpet 1, with carpets 5, 2 and 3 being lowest.

Airborne Microorganisms



P There is no evidence that room disturbance-associated airborne microorganism levels are greater for carpets than for hard floor. Indeed some carpets appear to be associated with lower levels under such circumstances.

Conclusion - Carpets 7 & 8

Allergen Test Dust (ATD) Introduction:

P Any differences observed between Carpet 7 (without R2X) and Carpet 8 (with R2X) were not significant.

Room Disturbance

P Once again 'Carpet 3' gives rise to very low particle counts during and after room disturbance. This is evident with and without R2X treatment.

Vacuuming and Room Disturbance

- P During vacuuming, the carpet without R2X (carpet 7) performed even better than that with R2X (carpet 8) on the first 2 vacuuming procedures.
- ^P Carpet 8 with R2X, was better on the third vacuuming procedure.
- P The initial rise in small particle coinciding with the vacuum cleaner being turned on is likely to be motor emissions.
- ^P The data for room disturbance is consistently very good with and without R2X.
- ^y These observations also apply to steam cleaning.

Surface and Airborne Allergen

- ^p Surface allergen was very low for both carpets 7 and 8 after vacuuming and steam cleaning. Both procedures are highly effective with and without R2X.
- P Airborne allergen is low for both carpets for up to 2 hours after ATD introduction and also following room disturbance, vacuuming and steam cleaning.

In summary, Carpet 3, (100% Nylon, medium pile height, broadloom) is once again highly effective at trapping allergen particles and is associated with low levels of exposure via the airborne route. It also appears that vacuuming and steam cleaning have a significant effect. R2X treatment does not appear to be the reason why this carpet functions so well. Bioaerosol data (Part II) further confirms the absence of a consistent R2X effect.



Overall Conclusion

Our chamber studies indicate that different floor coverings have a significant impact on airborne particle concentration. In general, airborne particle concentrations were lower with carpet as opposed to the hard floor. This difference was also shown to be dependent on the ability of the carpets to trap and retain particles from the air. The pile height and carpet fibre composition seemed to influence the particle retention capacity of the carpets. The possibility that there are other physical factors e.g. charge will need to be considered. Carpet 3, a 100% nylon medium pile height broadloom carpet, consistently performed best in terms of low levels of airborne allergen and bioaerosol detected throughout the study. This carpet acted as a reservoir for allergen resulting in increased surface allergen levels, yet reduced airborne exposures during room disturbance. Airborne allergen levels also remained low for carpet 3 during vacuuming and steam cleaning. This particle retention effect was mirrored to an extent with bioaerosols in the case of carpet 3.

The data for Carpet 3 provides the possibility of submitting a provisional standard to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) relating to the possibility of particular carpet designs being certifiable as asthma & allergy friendly[™]. Prior to such a submission, it will be necessary to demonstrate that such carpets can be effectively cleaned, thereby removing the dust reservoir which has accumulated over time.

Report compiled by:

Angela Southey, PhD Technical Manager Maire Fox MSc Laboratory Manager



Appendix I-A: Quick Reference Tables for Part I

Legend:

GOOD PERFORMANCE
POOR PERFORMANCE
AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Particle Counts:

	Test Dust	Room	Vacuuming &	Steam Cleaning &
	Introduction	Disturbance	Room Disturbance	Room Disturbance
Hard Floor		ž		
Carpet 1		0		
Carpet 2				
Carpet 3				
Carpet 4				
Carpet 5				
Carpet 6				

Surface Allergen:

	Test Dust	Room	Vacuuming &	Steam Cleaning &
	Introduction	Disturbance	Room Disturbance	Room Disturbance
Hard Floor				
Carpet 1				Aug.
Carpet 2				
Carpet 3	N/A	N/A		
Carpet 4				
Carpet 5				
Carpet 6				

Airborne Allergen

, and the state of				
	Test Dust	Room	Vacuuming &	Steam Cleaning &
	Introduction	Disturbance	Room Disturbance	Room Disturbance
Hard Floor		1		and the second second
Carpet 1				
Carpet 2				
Carpet 3				
Carpet 4				
Carpet 5				
Carpet 6				



Appendix I-B: Part I Particle Count Graphs

Hard Floor 1 Carpets 1-6

Legends

Fel d 1 – cat allergen Der p 1 – house dust mite allergen PhI p 5 – Timothy grass pollen

Particle sizes (µm):

1	-0.3
	-x- 3
	TOTAL

Axes

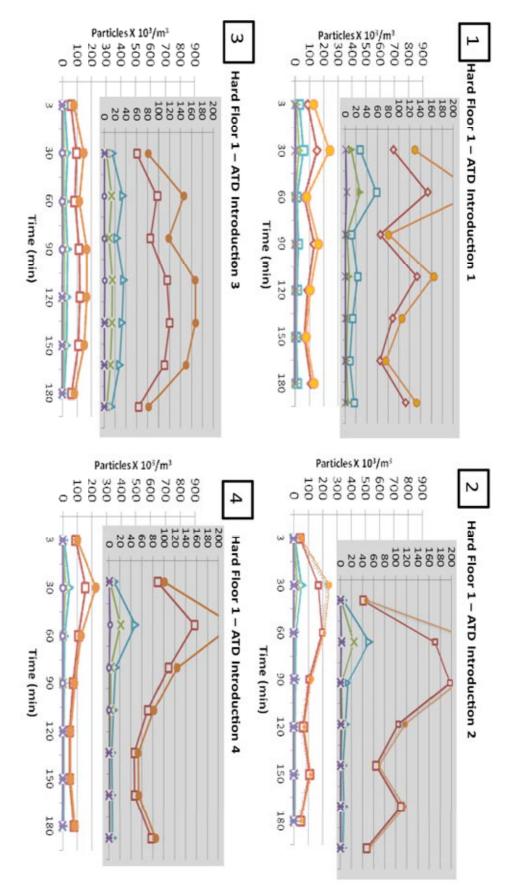
IMPORTANT: All Particle count data (per m³) is divided by 10³ for the purposes of representation. Therefore, the actual numerical figure is 1000 times that displayed on the graph.

Graphs 72-99: Duplicate graphs with 2 different scales (2000 x10³ particles/m³ and 12000x10³ particles/m³) are shown for each carpet for clarity.

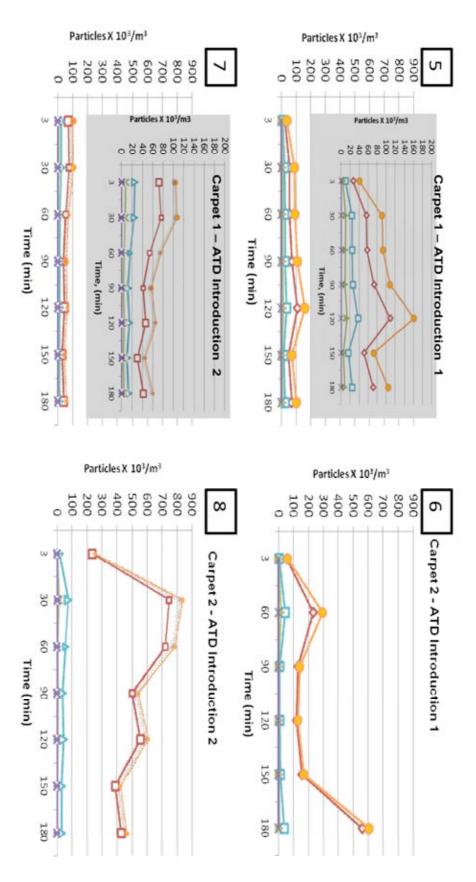
Note:

The bold red arrow on Graphs 84 and 86 (\rightarrow), located to the left of the y-axis indicates the maximum particle count level for the steam cleaner running in a room with no ATD and no carpet.

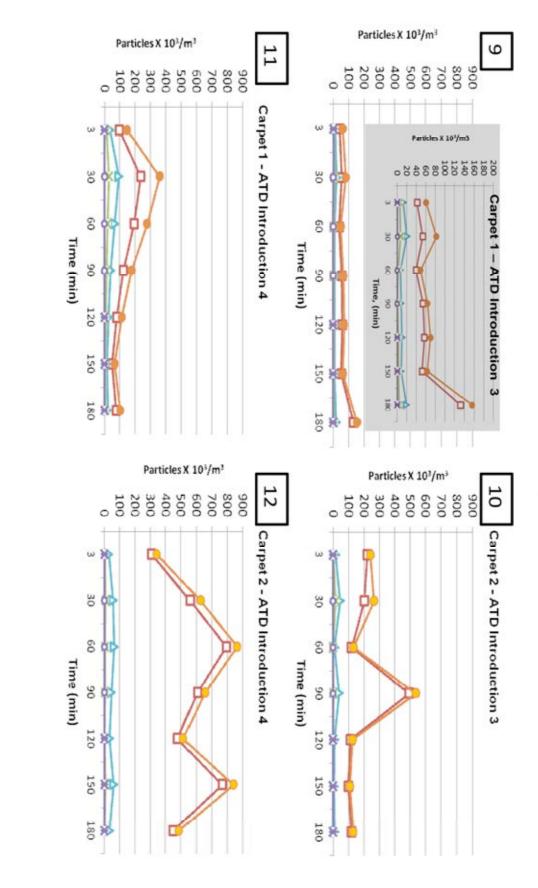




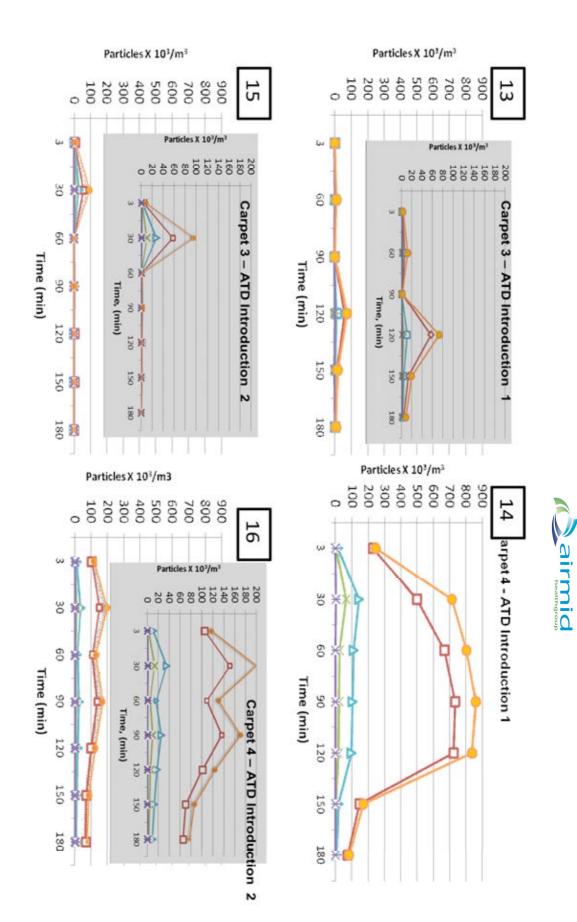
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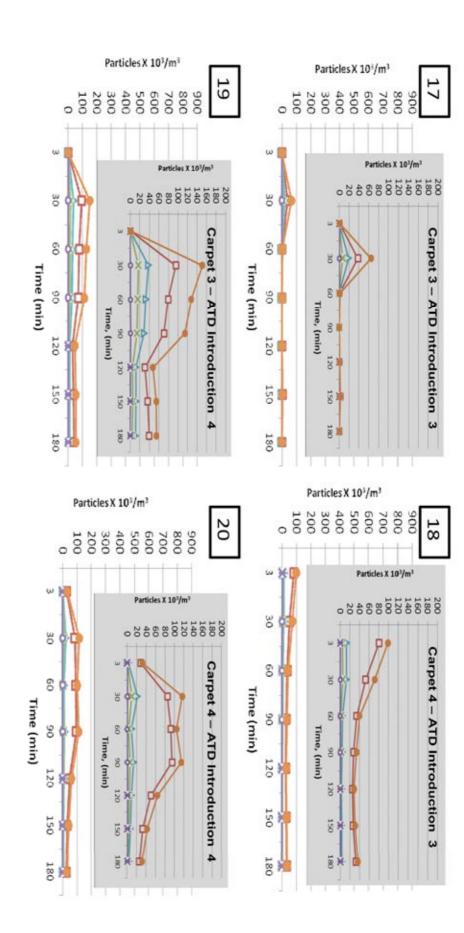








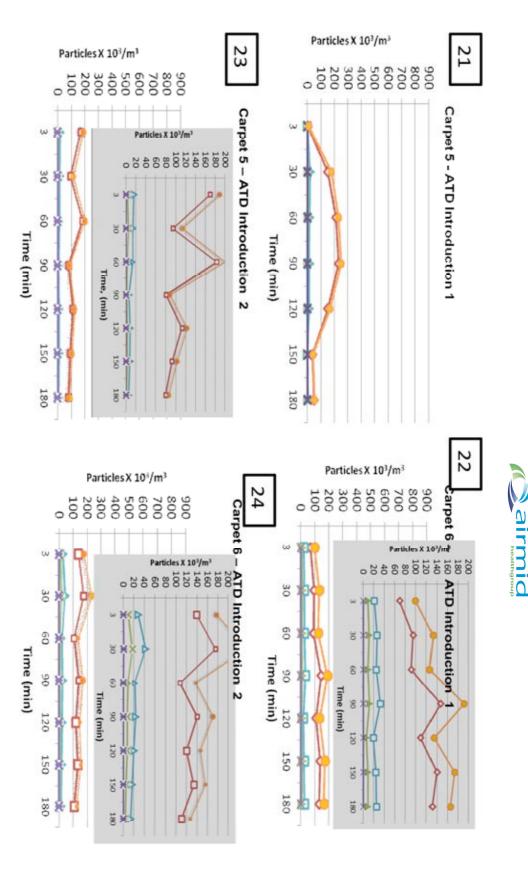




airmid

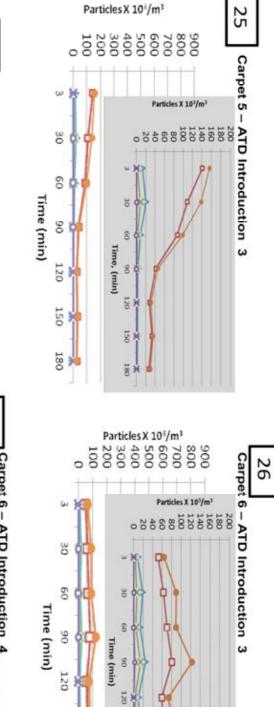












150

180

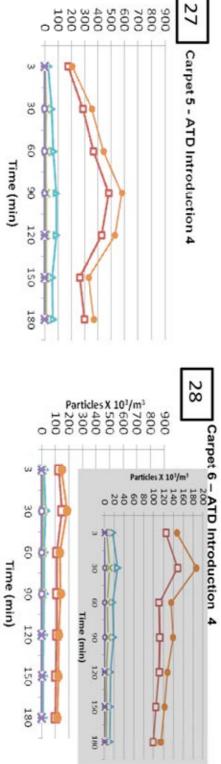
80

is ×

1.00 ×

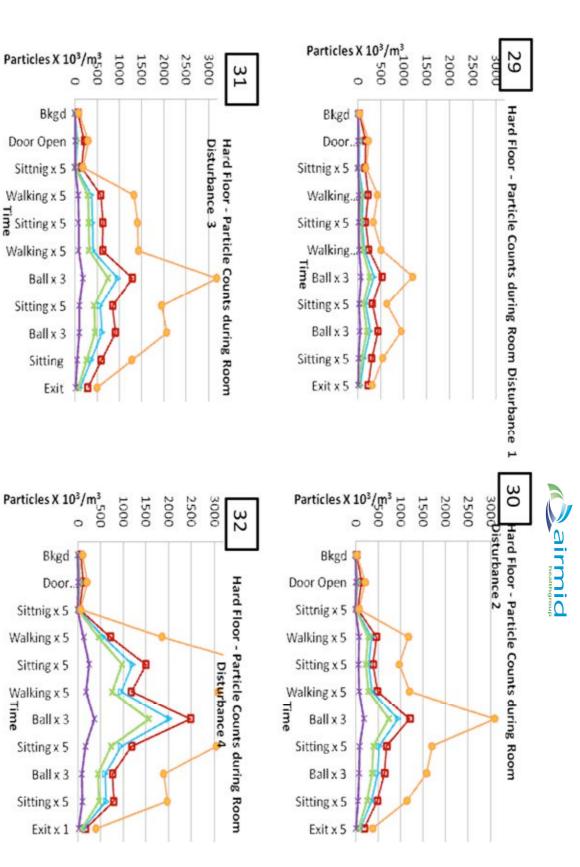
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b

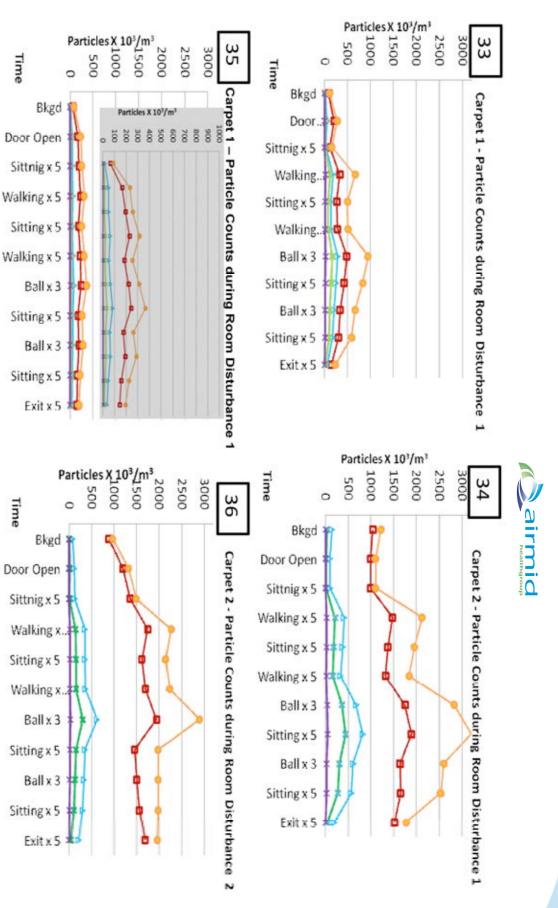


Particles X 10³/m³





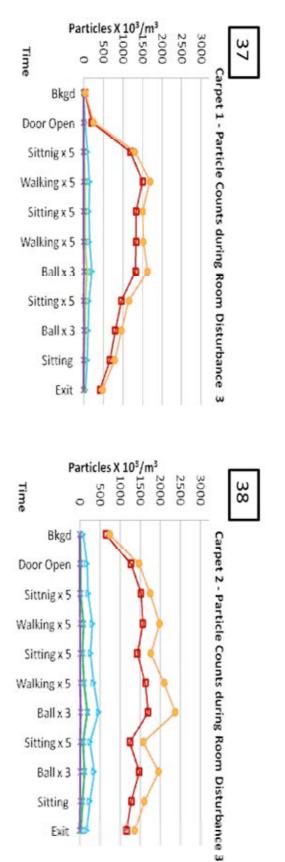




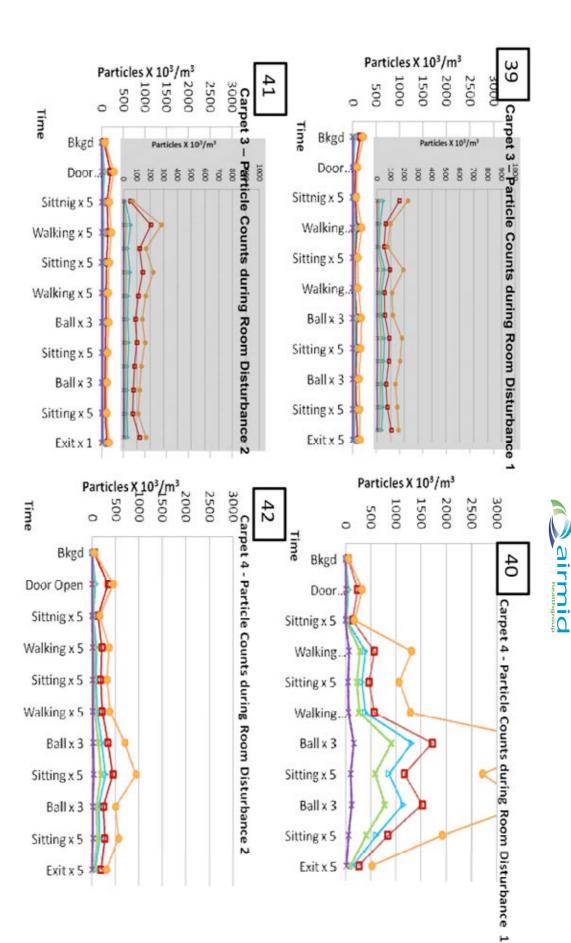


Time



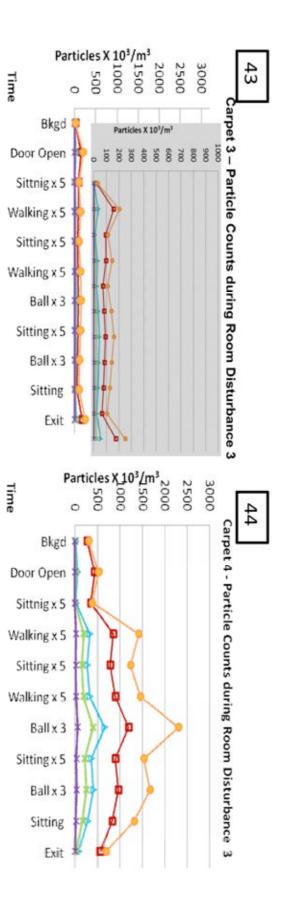


Exit

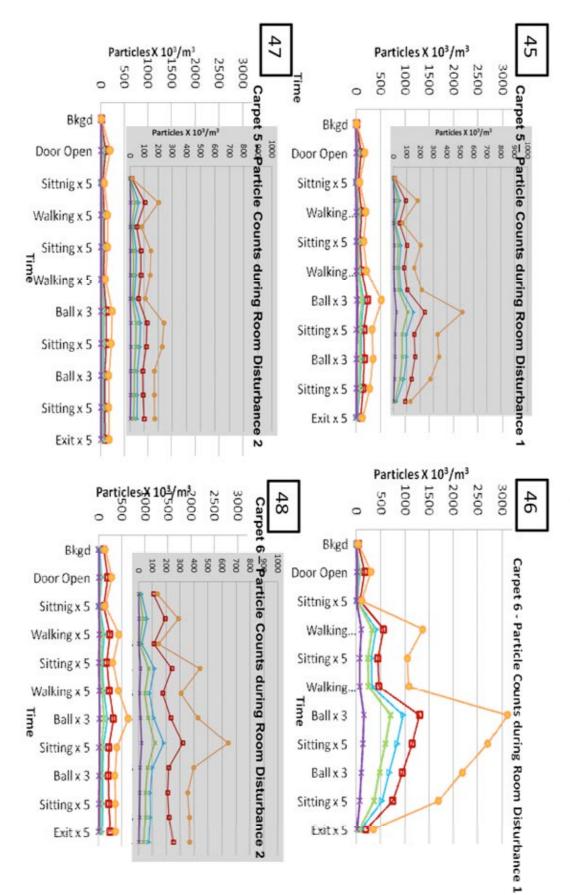




airmid

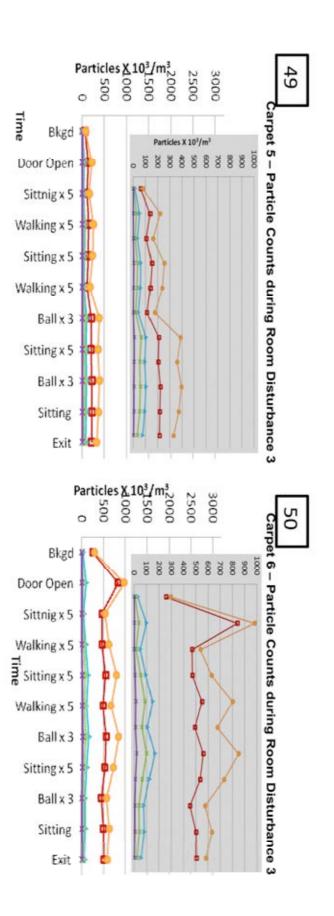




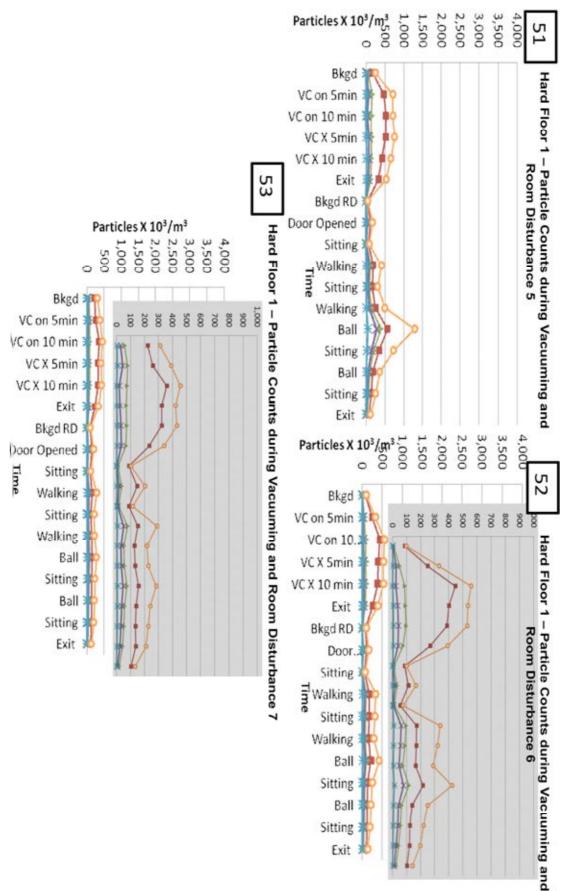


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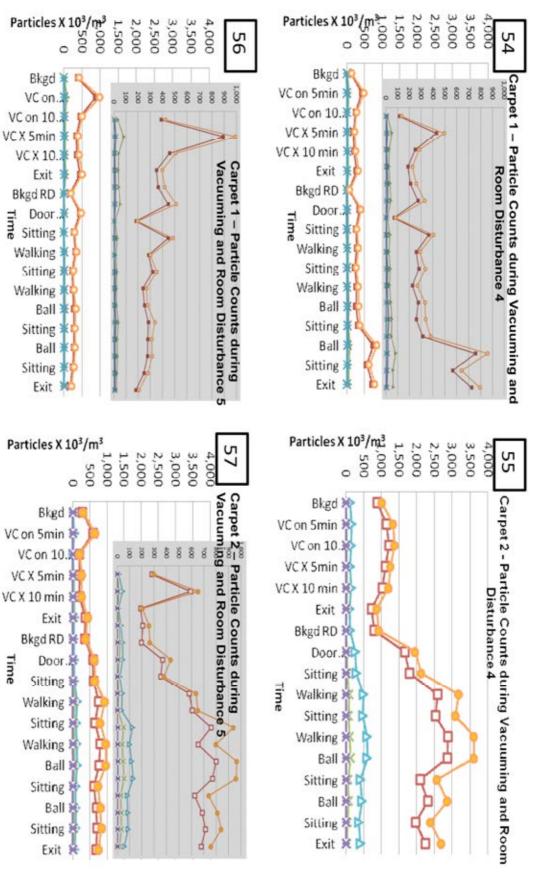




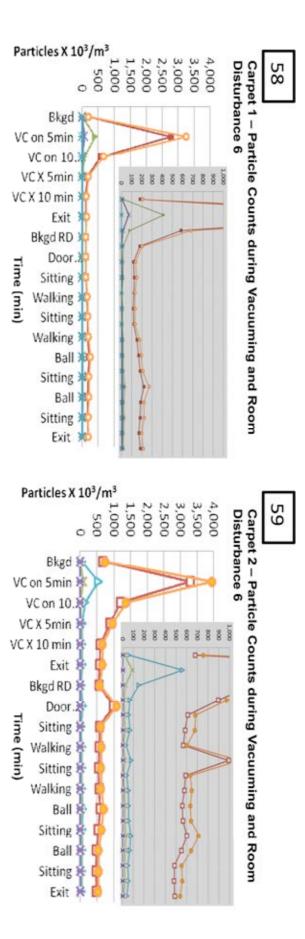


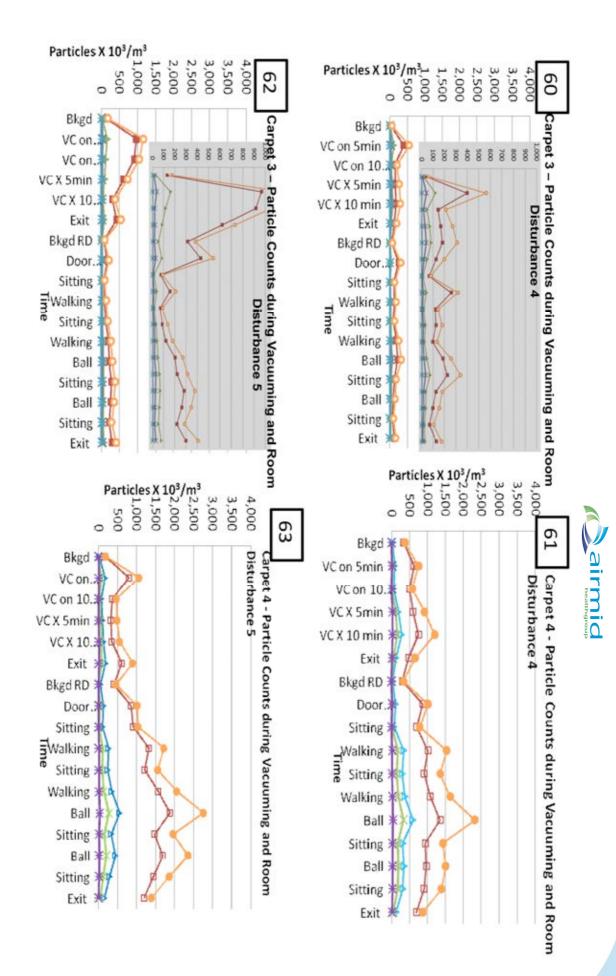




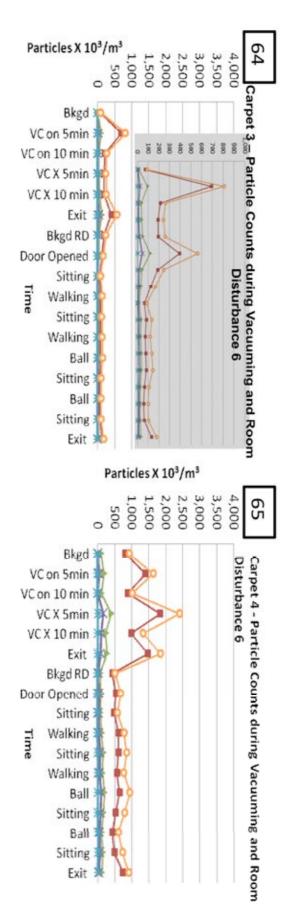


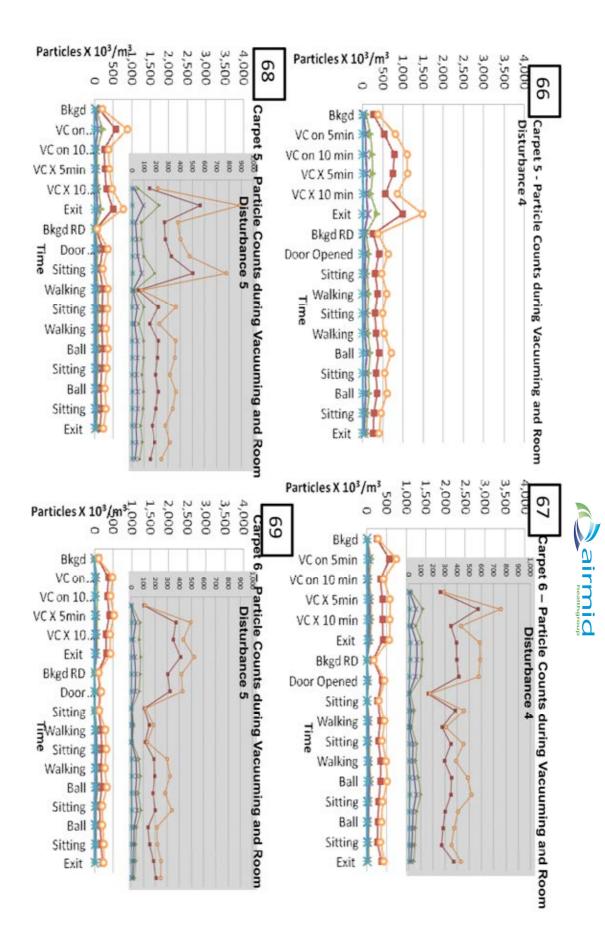




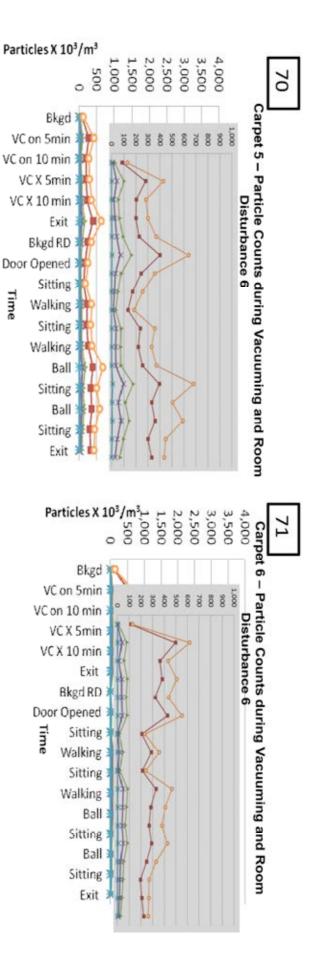




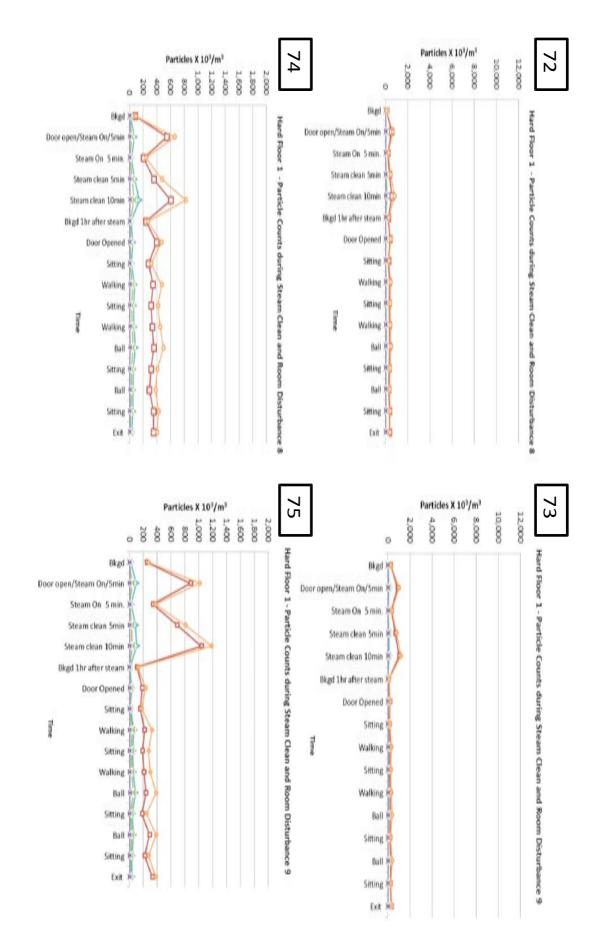




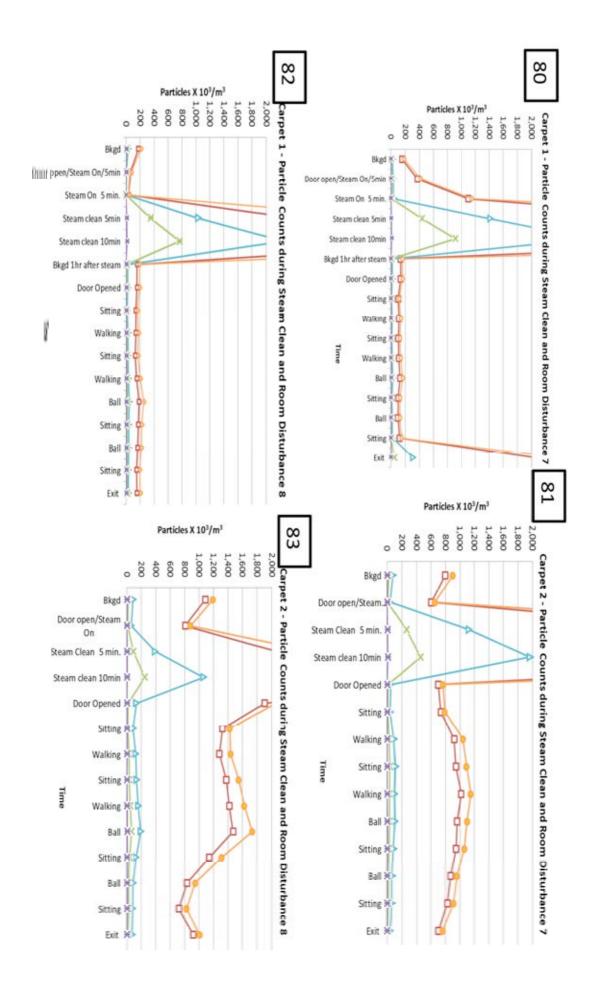




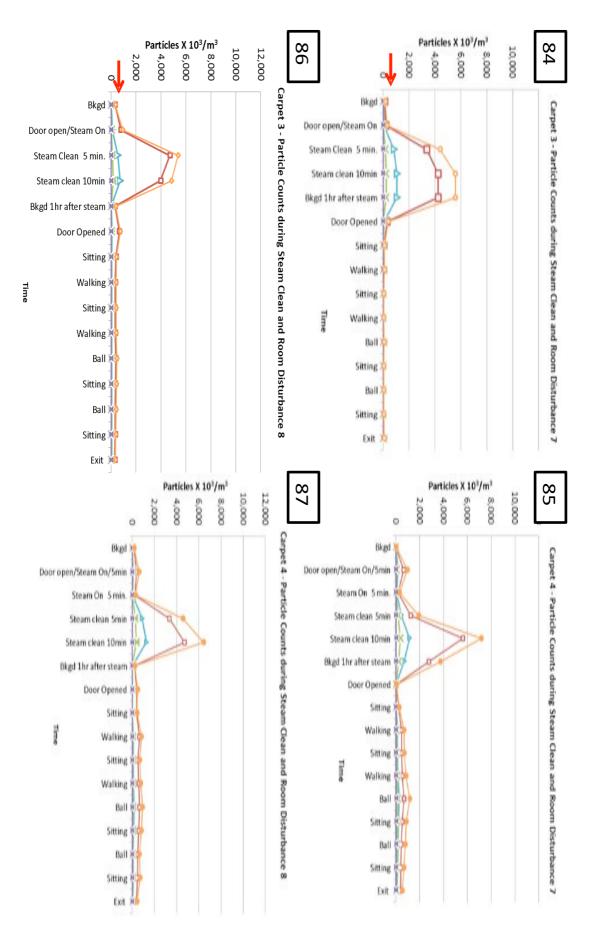


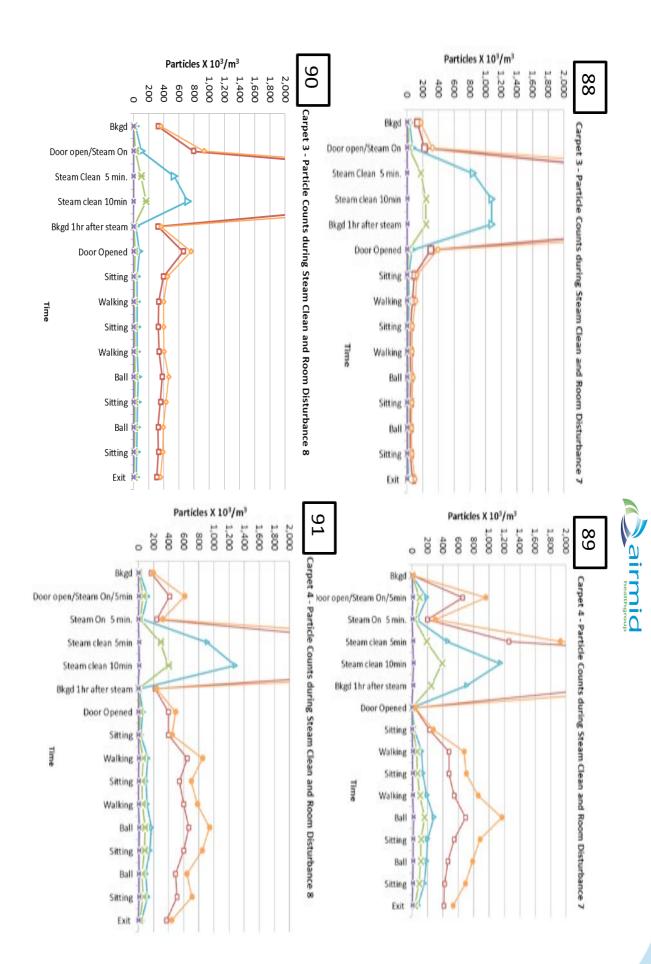




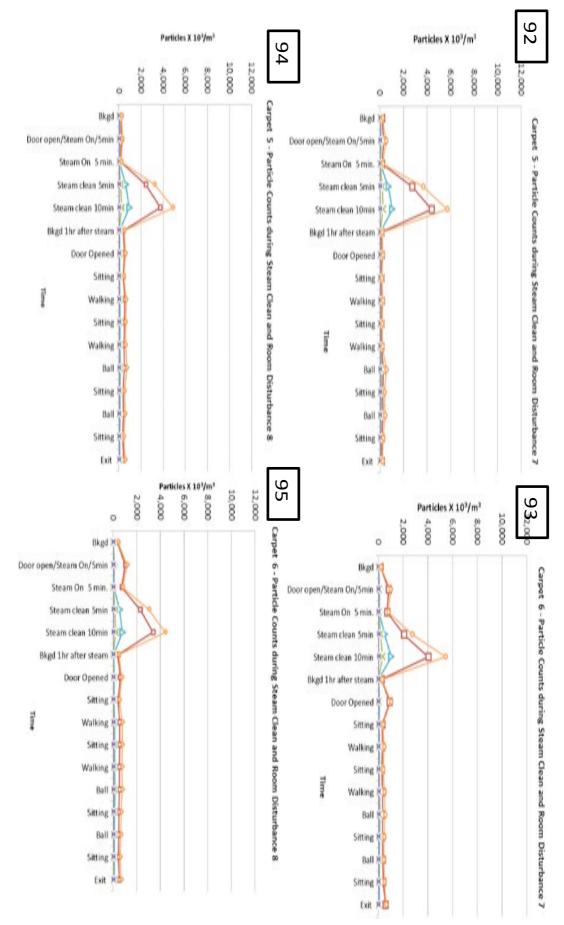


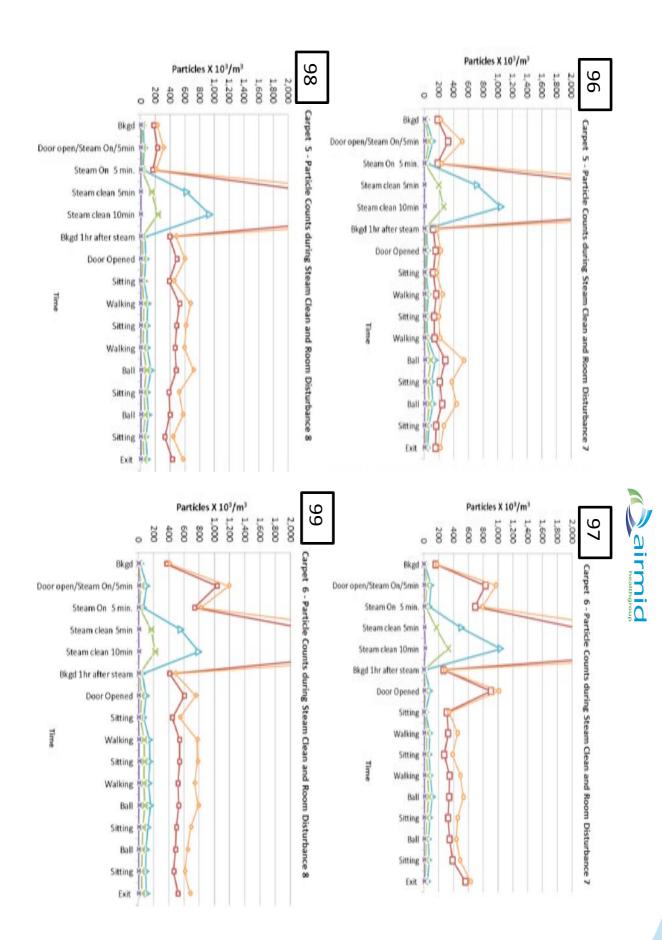




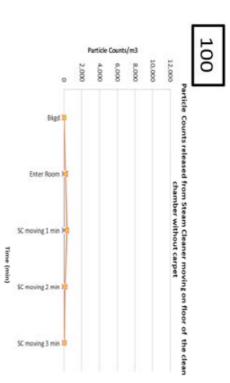


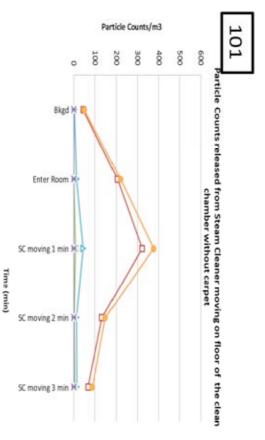






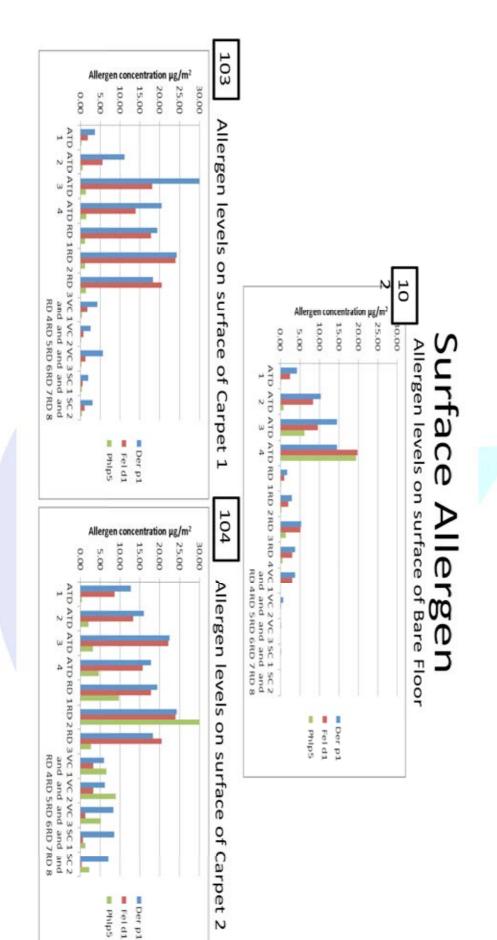




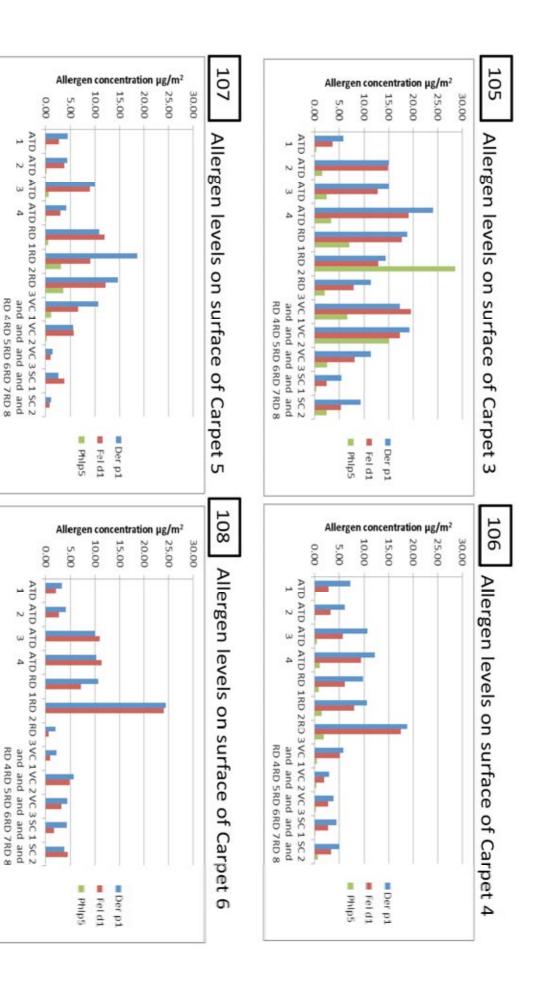




Appendix I-C: Part I Surface Allergen Graphs





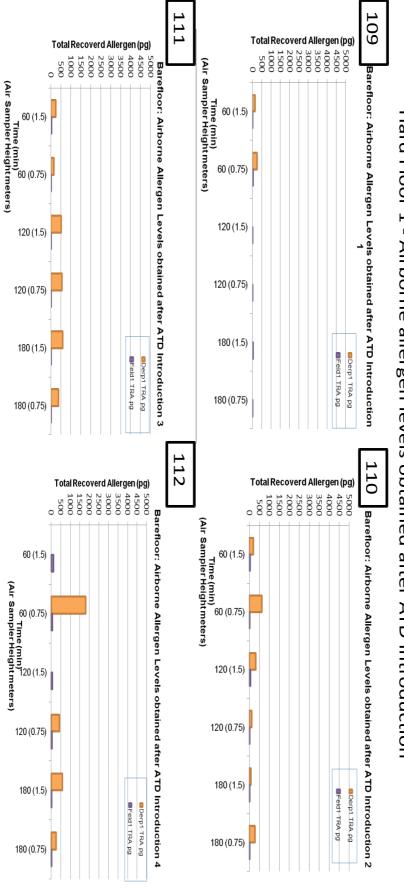




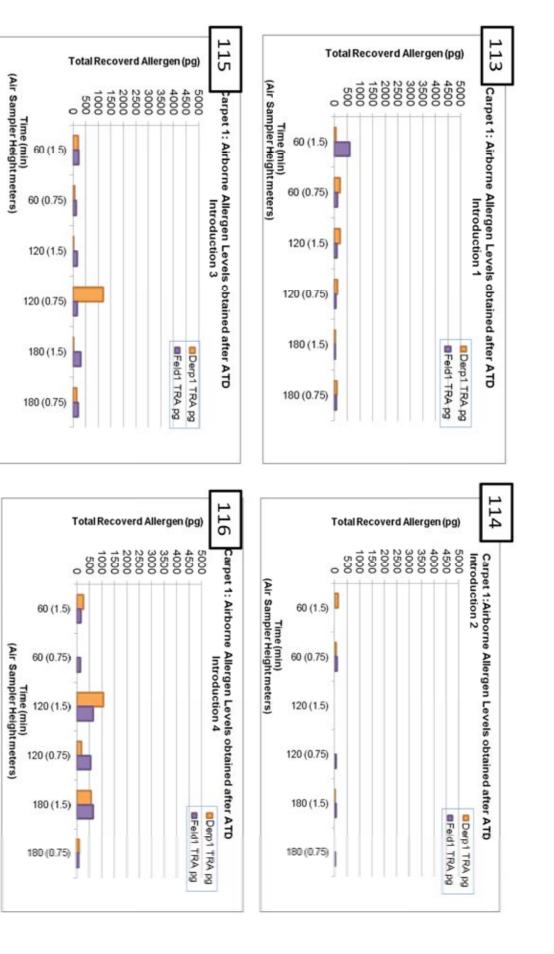
Appendix I-D: Part I Airborne Allergen Graphs

Airborne Allergen

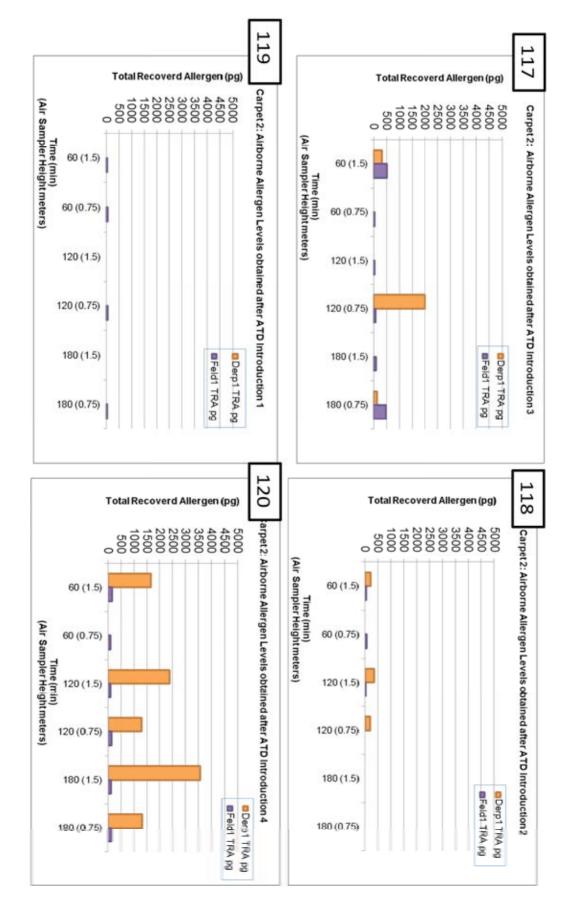
Hard Floor 1 - Airborne allergen levels obtained after ATD Introduction

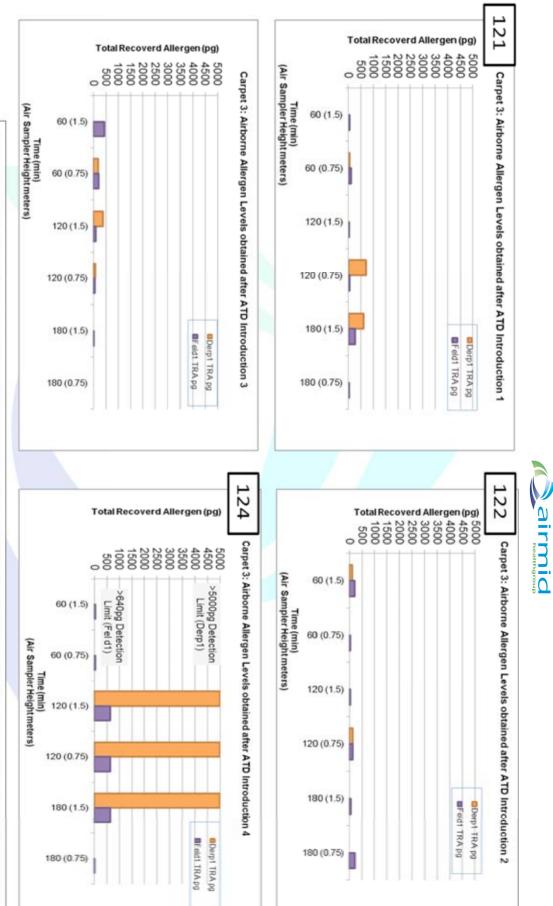






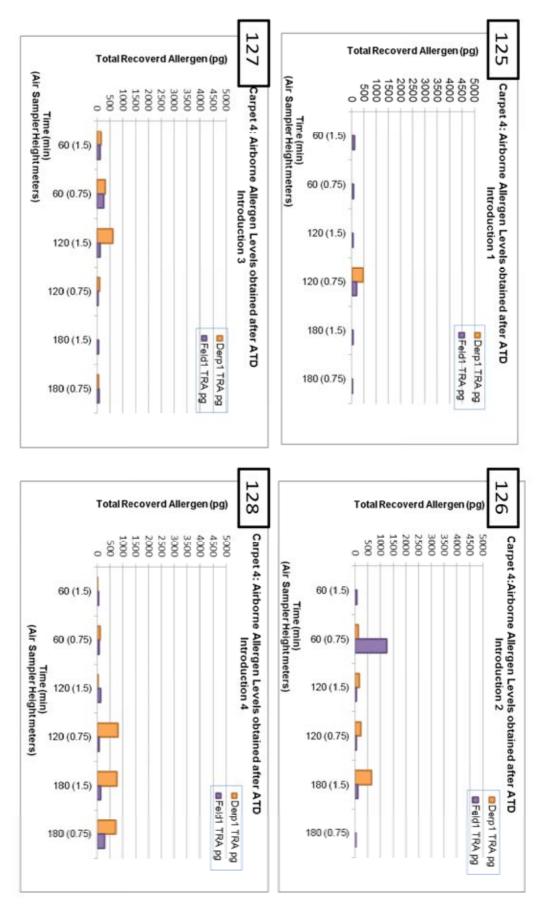




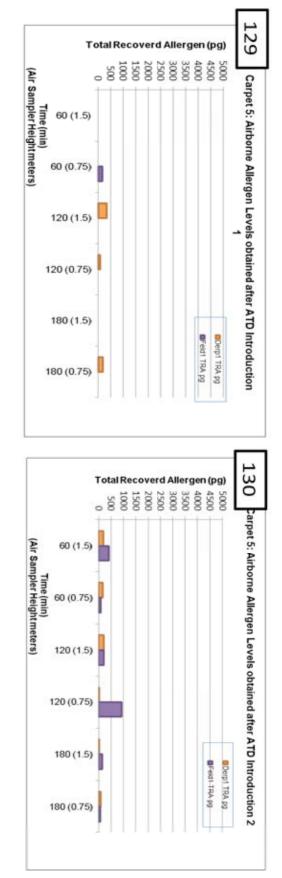


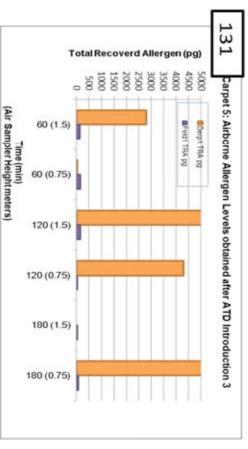
when removed from air sample cassettes. This was not observed after room disturbance or vacuuming/steaming Note: The unusually high airborne allergen levels observed for carpet 3 in Graph 124 may be due to contamination of the air filters

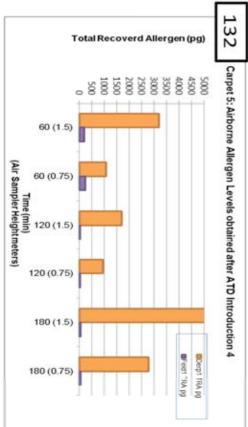






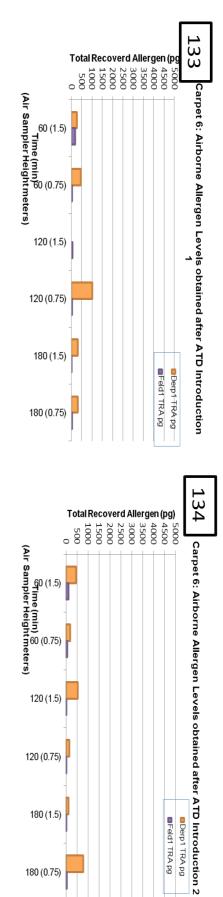


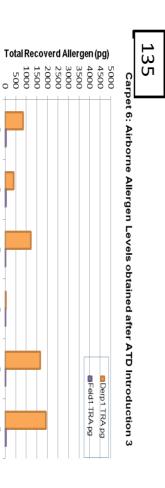






Carpet 6 - Airborne allergen levels obtained after ATD Introduction





(Air Sampler Height meters)

120 (1.5)

120 (0.75)

180 (1.5)

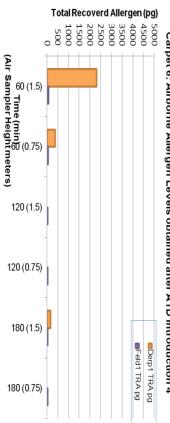
180 (0.75)



180 (1.5)

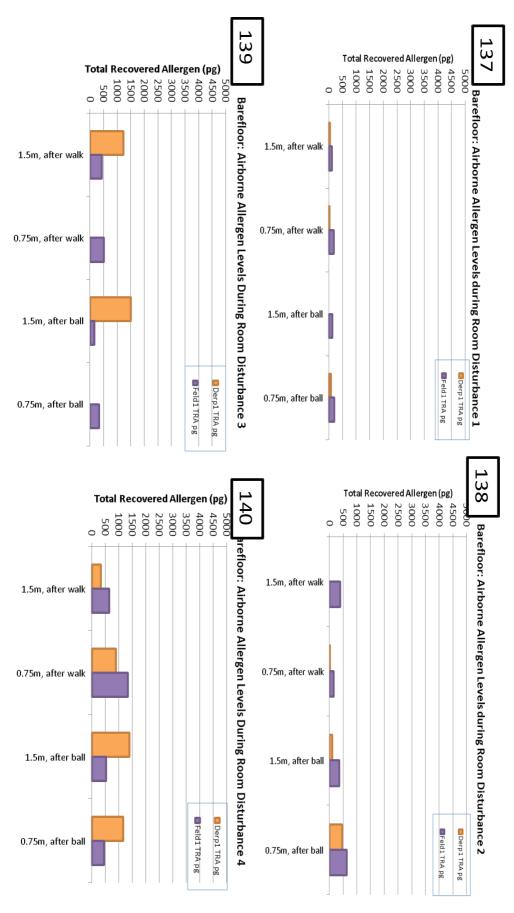
180 (0.75)

Feld1 TRA pg Derp1 TRA pg

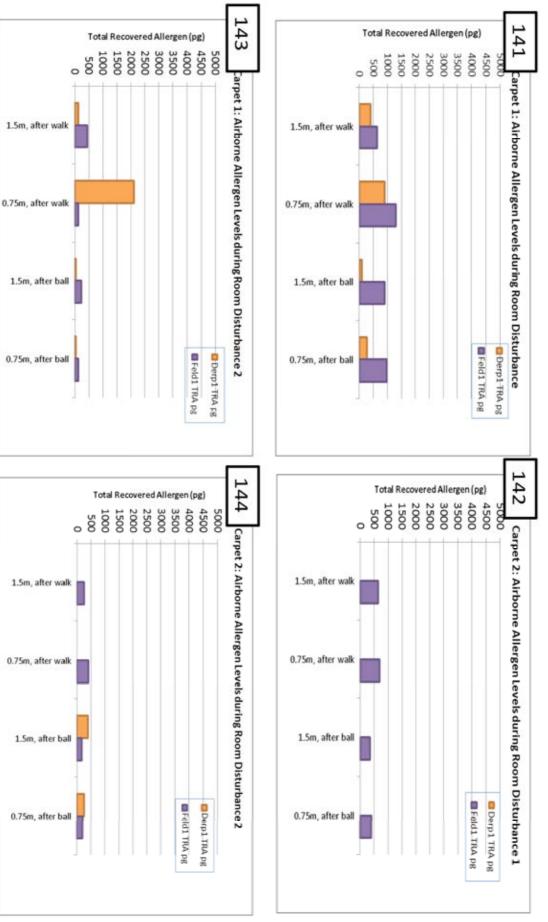




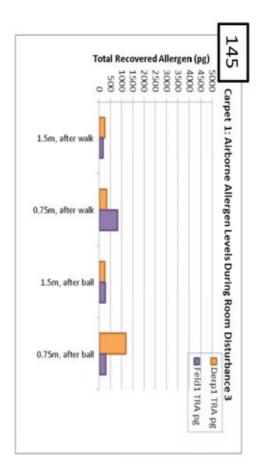
Hard Floor 1 - Airborne allergen levels obtained after Room Disturbance

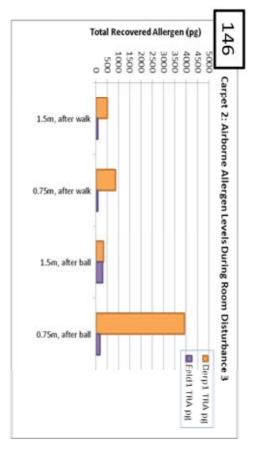




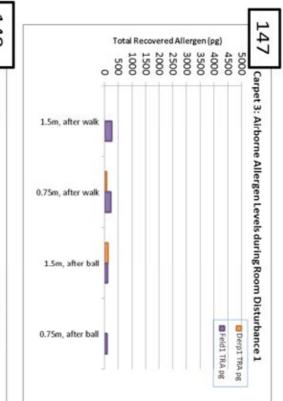


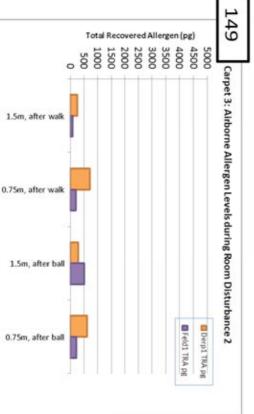


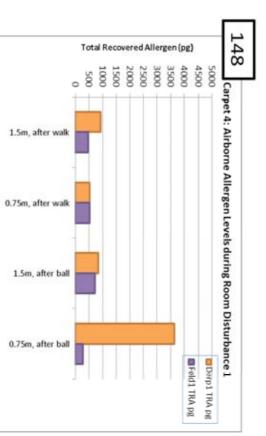


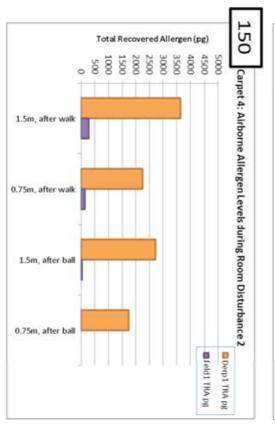




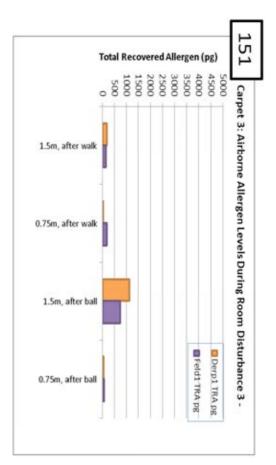


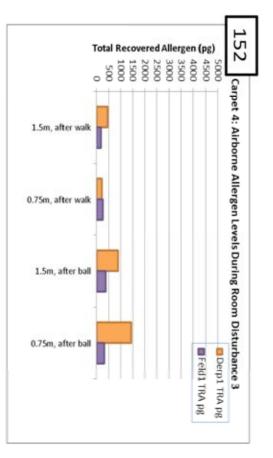




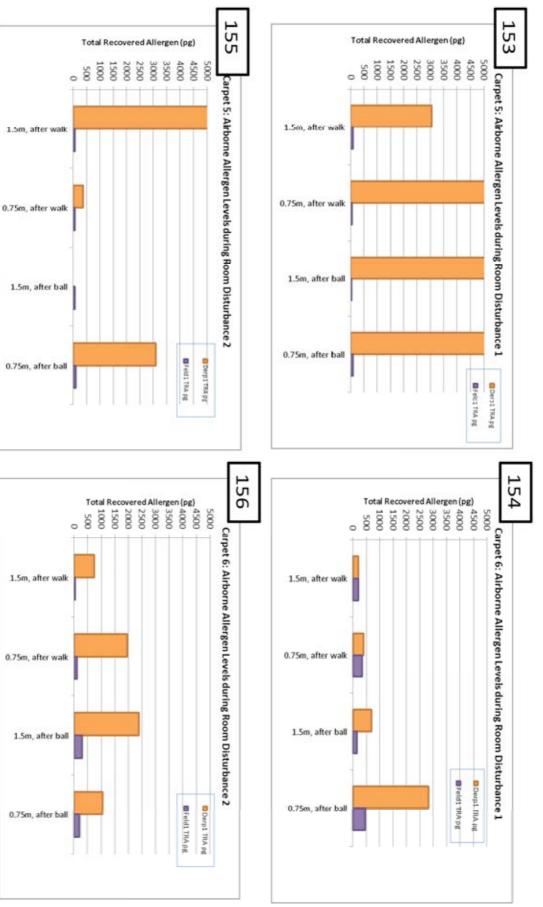




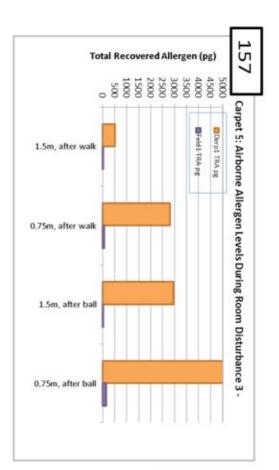








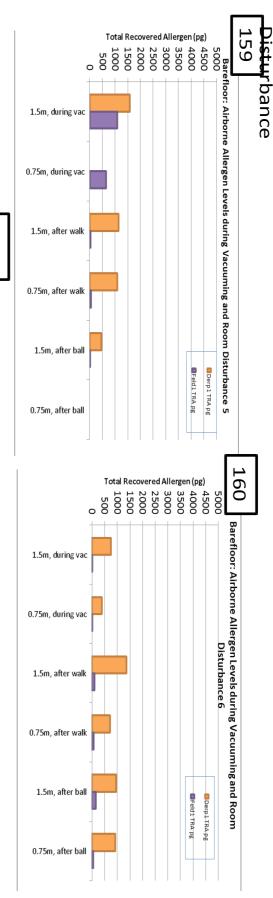


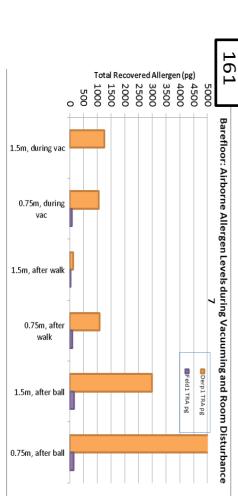


I	Fotal							7	158
	0 8	0	2000	00	88	00	000		1
1.5m, after walk								6: Airborne A	
75m, after walk								Ilergen Levels I	
1.5m, after ball								Carpet 6: Airborne Allergen Levels During Room Disturbance 3	
0.75m, after ball						Feld1 TRA pg	Derp1 TRA pg	isturbance 3	

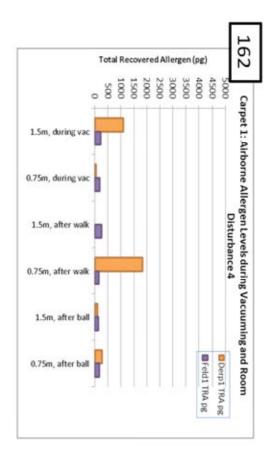


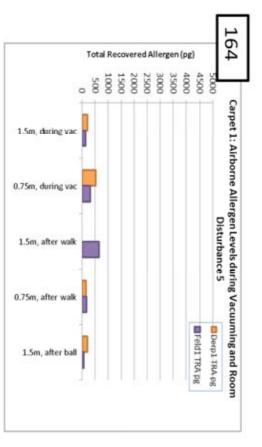
Hard Floor 1 - Airborne allergen levels obtained after Vacuuming and Room

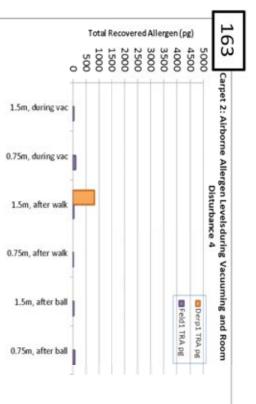


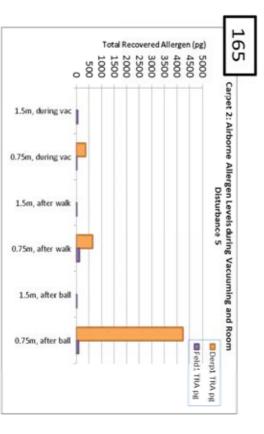










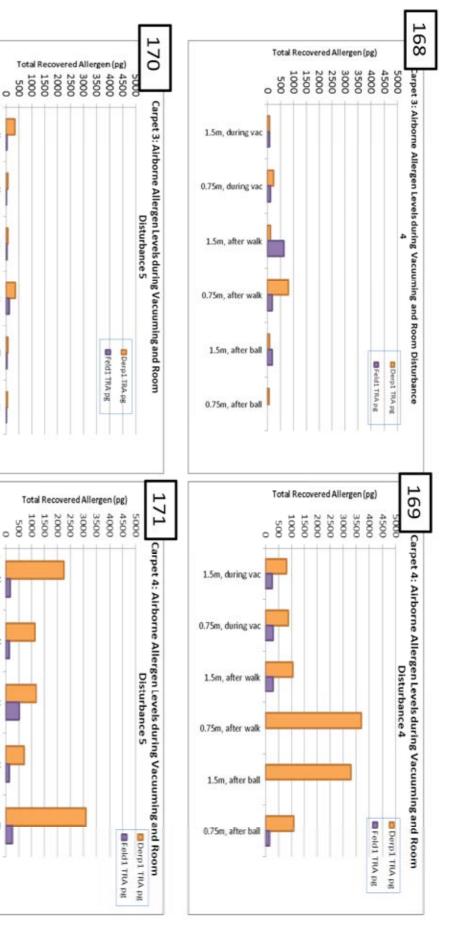




	т	otal Re	ecover	ed Alle	rgen (pg)		166
	0	1000	2000	3000	4000 3500	5000 4500	
1.5m, during va	c					T	Carpet 1:
0.75m, durin vac	8						Carpet 1: Airborne Allergen Levels during Vacuuming and Room
1.5m, after wal	k b					Distur	lergen Lev
0.75m, after wal	k 					Disturbance b	els during \
1.5m, after ba	"						Vacuumir
0.75m, after ba						E Feld1 TRA pg	ng and R

					llerger		•	E
	0	500	1500	2500	3500	000	1500	191
1.5m, during va	•					T		Carpet 2: A
75m, during va	٩							rborne Alle
1.5m, after wal	*							Disturbance 6
.75m, after wal	•							during Vacu ce 6
1.5m, after ba	•	1				Feld	Derp	Carpet 2: Airborne Allergen Levels during Vacuuming and Room Disturbance 6
0.75m, after ba	'1					Feld1 TRA pg	Derp1 TRA pg	Room





1.5m, during vac

0.75m, during vac

1.5m, after walk

0.75m, after walk

1.5m, after ball

0.75m, after ball

1.5m, during vac

0.75m, during vac

1.5m, after walk

0.75m, after walk

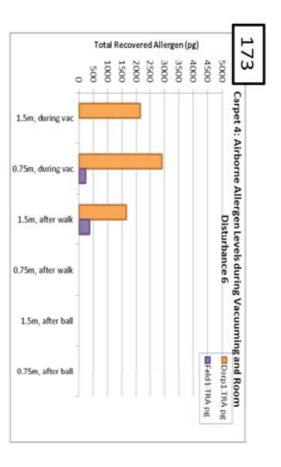
1.5m, after ball

1000

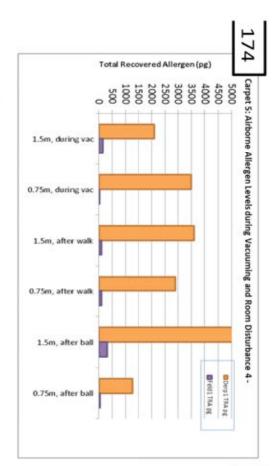
500

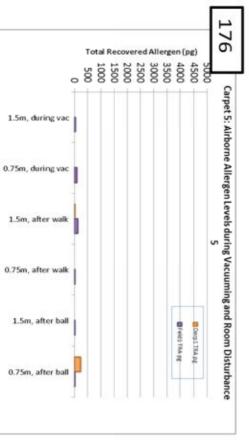


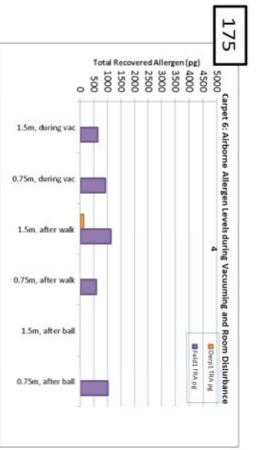
			3000		4500	_
1.5m, during va	•					arpet 3: Ai
0.75m, durin vac	e					Carpet 3: Airborne Allergen Levels during Vacuuming and Room
1.5m, after wal	k				Distribute o	en Levels du
0.75m, afte walk	•				50	Iring Vacuum
1.5m, after ba	"					ing and Ro
0.75m, after ba				Feld1 TRA pg	Derp1 TRA pg	om

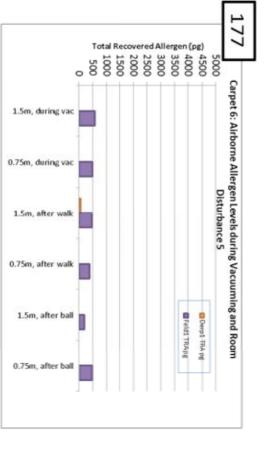




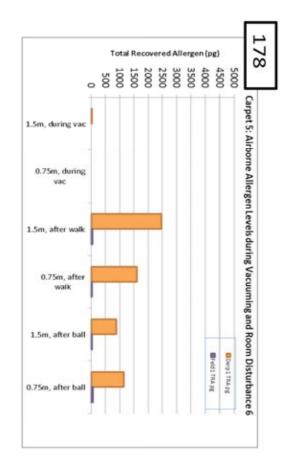








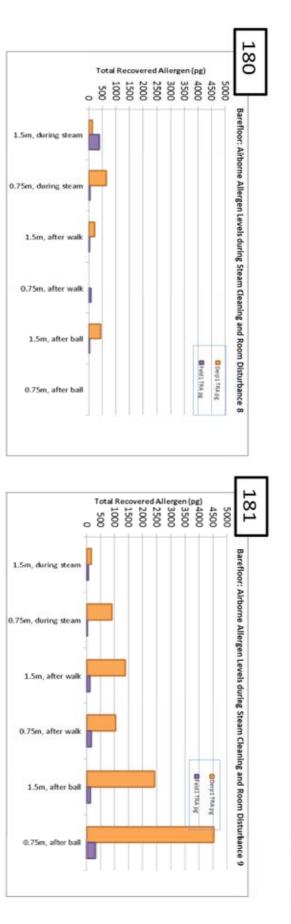




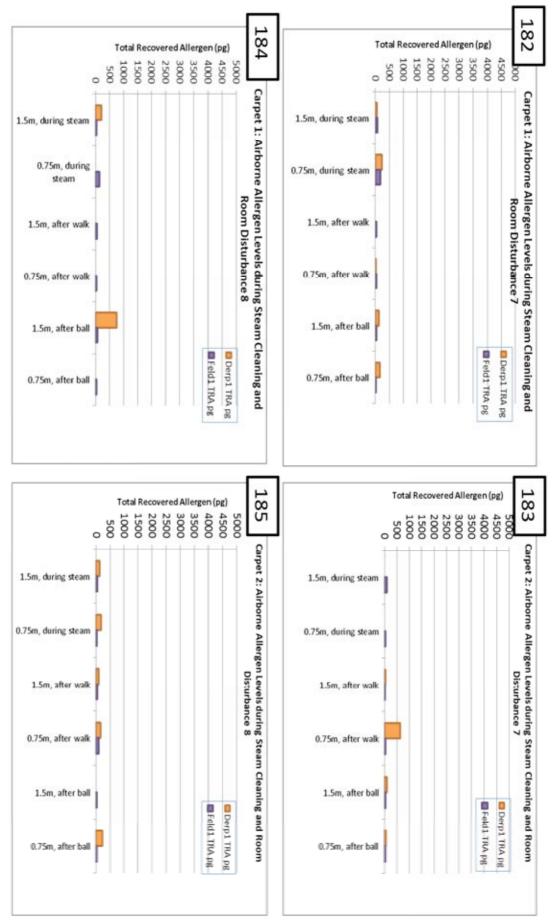
									n (p			110	1
	0	500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500	5000	4	2
.5m, during vac												Carpet 6: Ai	
0.75m, during vac		4										Carpet 6: Airborne Allergen Levels during Vacuuming and Room	
1.5m, after walk											Disturbance 6	gen Levels du	
0.75m, after walk											6	Iring Vacuum	
1.5m, after ball												ning and Ro	
0.75m, after ball									Bel voir Youau	LIAN TOA DA	Dernt TBA no	om	



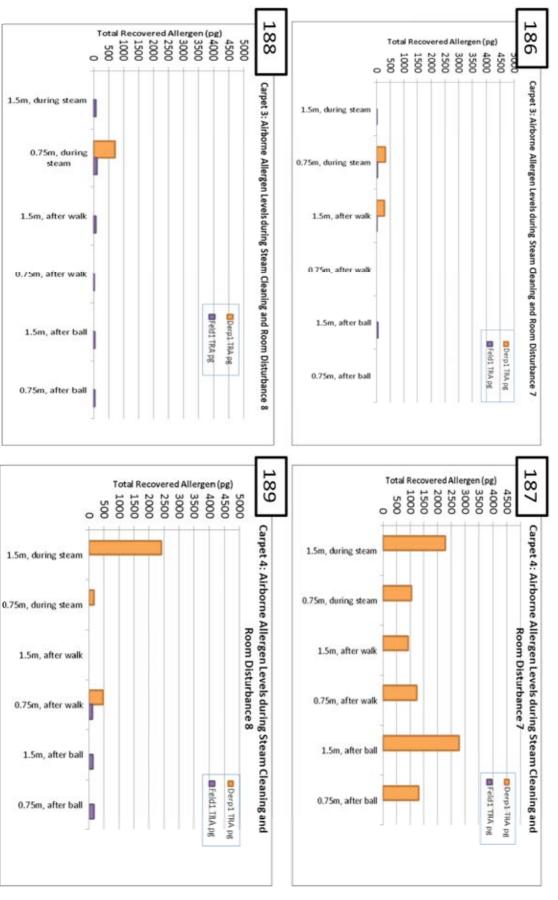
Hard Floor 1 - Airborne allergen levels obtained after Steam Cleaning and Room Disturbance

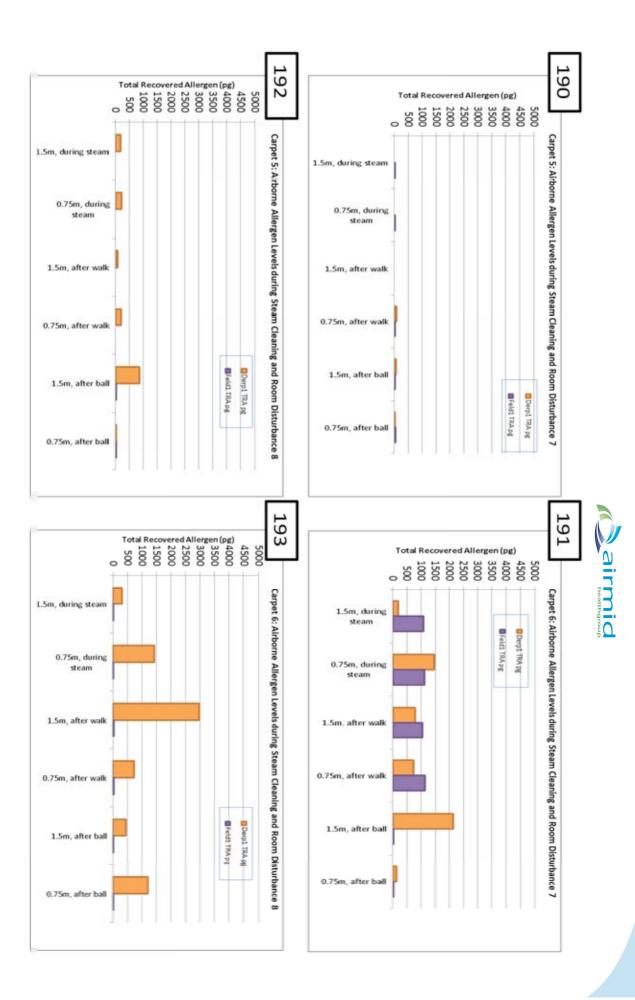












Appendix II-A: Quick Reference Tables for Part II

Legend:

GOOD PERFORMANCE
POOR PERFORMANCE
AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Particle Counts:

	Bioaerosol Introduction	Room Disturbance
Hard Floor		
Carpet 1		
Carpet 2		
Carpet 3		
Carpet 4		
Carpet 5		
Carpet 6		

Airborne Bioaerosol:

	Bioaerosol Introduction	Room Disturbance
Hard Floor		
Carpet 1		
Carpet 2		
Carpet 3		
Carpet 4		
Carpet 5		
Carpet 6		



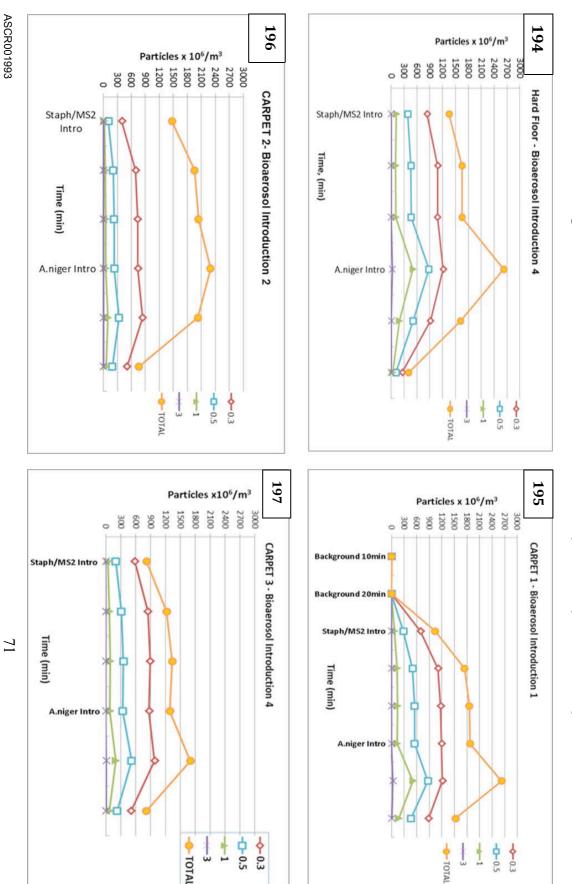
Appendix II-B: Part II Particle Count Graphs

Graphs of Particle Counts during Bioaerosol Introduction and Room Disturbance for Hard Floor and Carpets 1-6

Important Note for y-axes:

For Graphs No. 194 – 207: The Particle count data (per m^3) are divided by 10^6 for the purposes of representation. Therefore, the actual numerical counts are 6 orders of magnitude greater than that displayed on the graph. For Graphs No. 208 – 214: Particle count data (per m^3) are divided by 10^5 for the purposes of representation. Therefore, the actual numerical counts are 5 orders of magnitude greater than that displayed on the graph.





1

μ

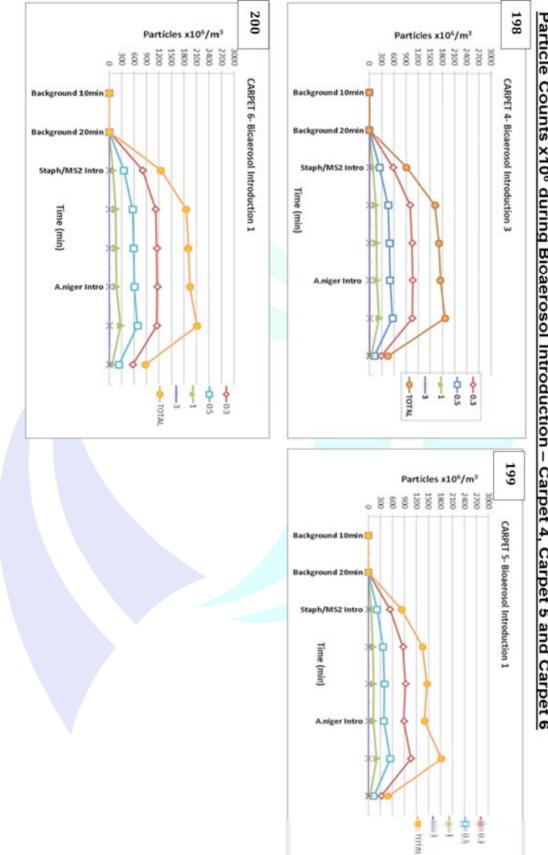


0.3

-TOTAL

* ł

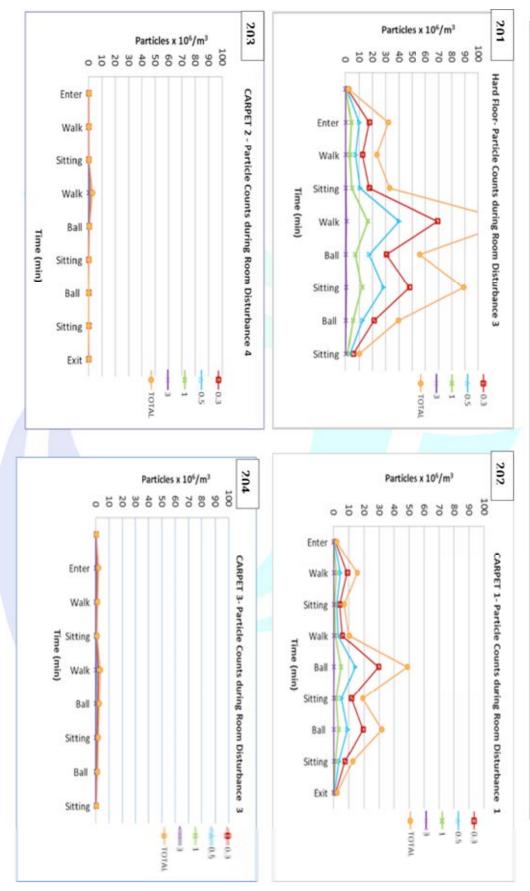




Particle Counts x10⁶ during Bioaerosol Introduction – Carpet 4, Carpet 5 and Carpet 6



Particle Counts x 10⁶ during Room Disturbance –Hard floor, Carpet 1, Carpet 2 and Carpet 3

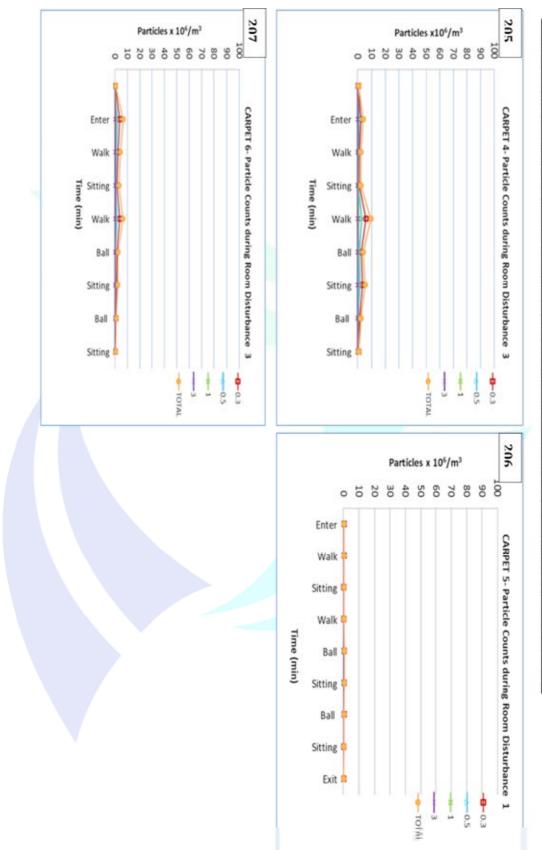


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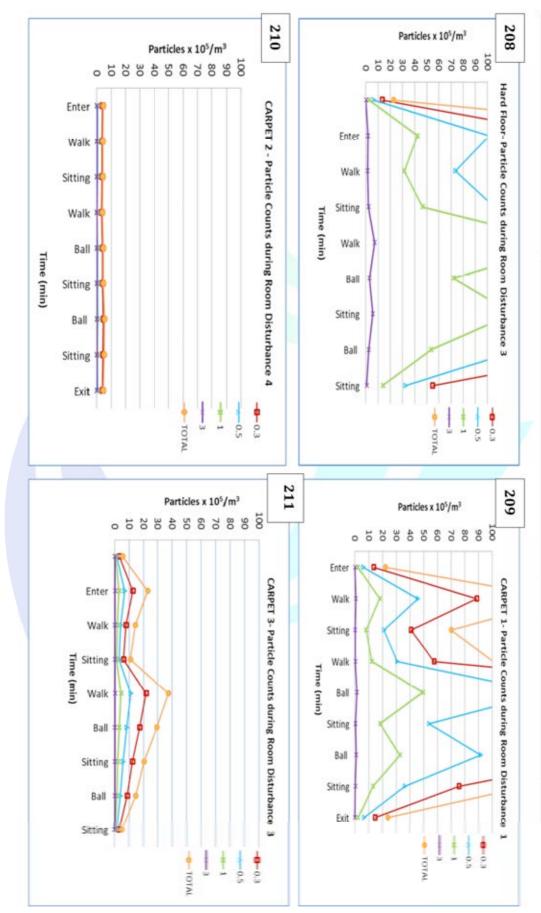
Particle Counts x 10⁶ during Room Disturbance – Carpet 4, Carpet 5 and Carpet 6



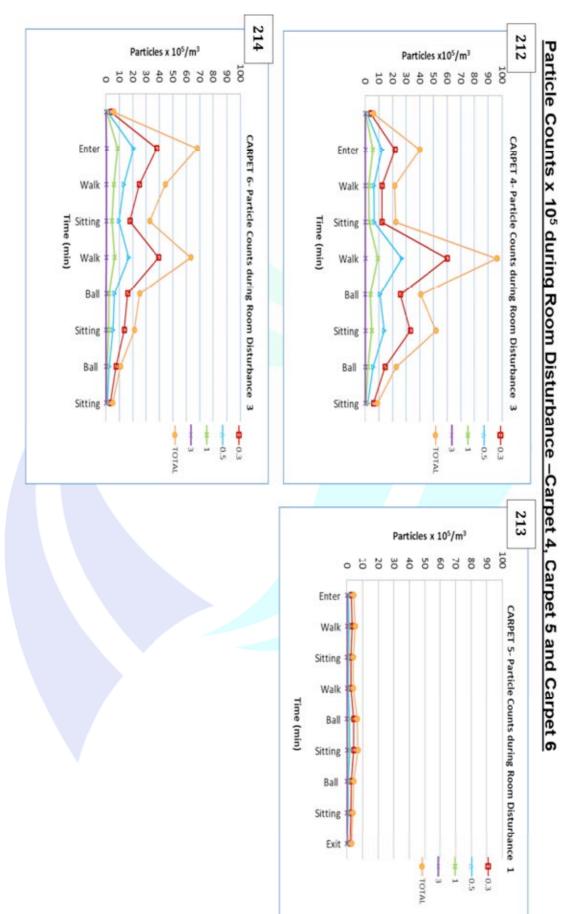
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Appendix II-C: Part II Bioaerosol Graphs

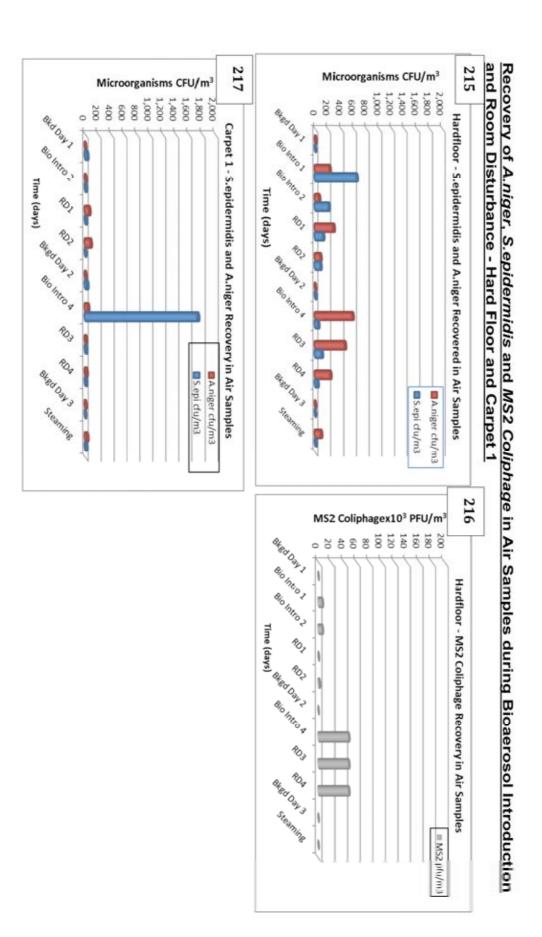
Recovery of *A .niger*, *S. epidermidis* and MS2 coliphage during Bioaerosol Introduction and Room Disturbance for Hard Floor and Carpets 1-6

Important Note for y-axes:

The recovery of *A* .*niger* and *S*. *epidermidis* from the air are expressed as colony forming units (CFU) per m³

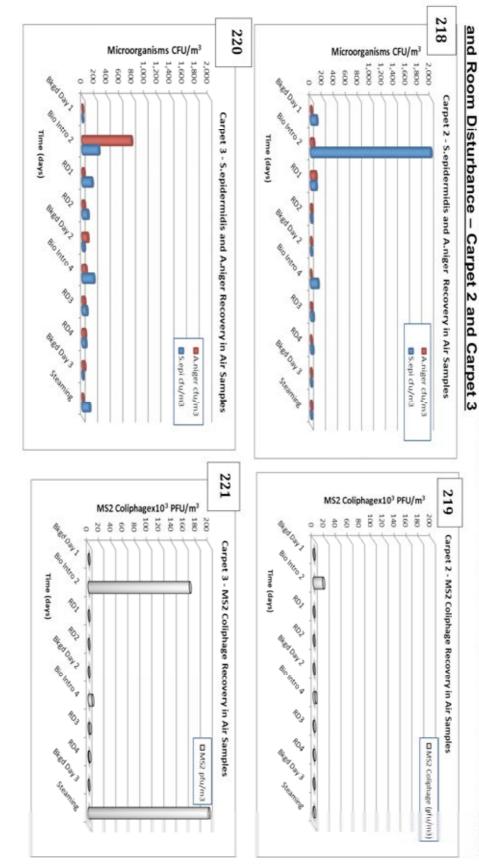
The recovery of MS2 coliphage is expressed, on separate graphs, as plaque forming units (PFU) x 10^3 per m³. The PFU are divided by 10^3 for the purposes of representation, therefore the actual numerical values are 3 orders of magnitude greater than that displayed on these graphs.







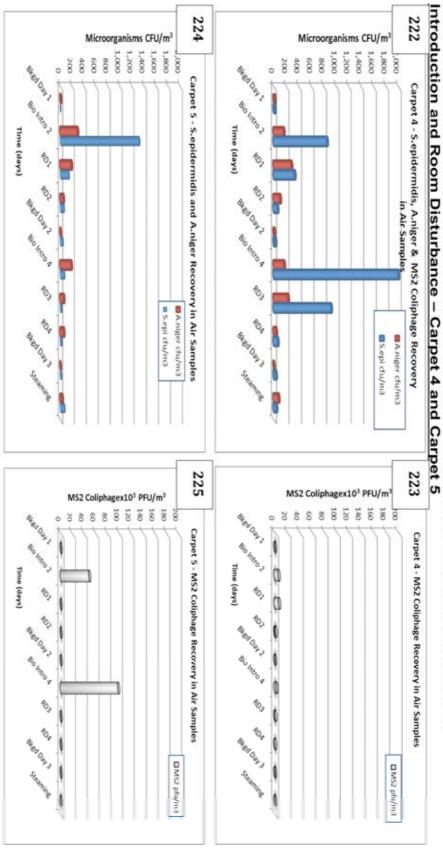
Recovery of A.niger, S.epidermidis and MS2 Coliphage in Air Samples during Bioaerosol Introduction



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Recovery of A.niger, S.epidermidis and MS2 Coliphage in Air Samples during Bioaerosol



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Recovery of A.niger, S.epidermidis and MS2 Coliphage in Air Samples during Bioaerosol Introduction and Room Disturbance – Carpet 6

