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 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry	Molds		Instructor Tips	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet metal workers work in environments that have a high potential for exposure to many hazards. The TAB and service divisions of the sheet metal trade are examples of areas where an increased risk of exposure to biological hazards exist. Molds and bacteria are two types of biological hazards that TAB and service workers may encounter. While there are no enforceable occupational health standards establishing “safe” limits, it is still important to know how molds and bacteria could affect you, and the measures you can take to prevent them. • Molds come from the fungi family, which also includes mushrooms, rusts, smuts, puffballs, truffles, and yeasts. Molds are part of the environment and are found almost everywhere, and they can grow on almost any surface where moisture is present. Molds reproduce by making spores that cannot be seen without magnification. Spores move continually indoors and outdoors. • Not all molds cause negative health effects. Some molds produce allergens, irritants, and toxins that could cause reactions in humans. The types and severity of symptoms depend on the type of mold present, the extent of a person’s exposure, his/her existing sensitivities or allergies, and his/her age. • Molds need three things to survive: moisture, stable temperature (room temperature is best), and a food source (dirt, cellulose, etc.) If you find mold indoors, you must clean up the mold and fix the moisture source. If you clean up the mold and do not fix the moisture problem, the mold will most likely come back. • To prevent mold growth indoors, keep the humidity level below 40%, and use an air conditioner or dehumidifier during humid months. Make sure there is adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans, in areas where water is used, such as the kitchen and bathrooms. Use fans or open windows for ventilation if necessary. • Do not carpet bathrooms or basements, and remove or replace any previously soaked carpets and upholstery. Fix any leaking pipes, windows, or roofs immediately, and direct rainfall or irrigation drainage away from exterior walls. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask workers to name some of the job tasks TAB and service personnel perform that may expose them to biological hazards like mold (duct leak testing, drip pan and coil maintenance, air filter maintenance, air and hydronic balancing). • Refer to the SMOHIT Molds and Bacteria Fact Sheet for more detailed information. 	
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Reference: National Energy Management Institute, EPA Publication #402-K-02-003