

# PROFILE

## Abraham BELKACEM

*Abraham is a Testing Officer and Technical Manager responsible for Air in the workplace at the Test and Measurement Laboratory (LEM), in the Physico-Chemical Centre.*

*His work involves employees across all company sectors, testing the indoor air quality, ventilation and sanitization of work spaces and their exposure to chemical agents in the working environment.*

February 2022

Many employees are exposed to different chemical agents in their workplace. As a testing officer, Abraham must check the levels of exposure of all employees to hazardous pollutants to ensure compliance with the regulations.

Abraham and his colleagues may be requested to perform specific tasks, such as: characterizing a workstation or establishing new preventive measures; identifying specific situations to mitigate chemical exposure; and participating in research projects.

He is tasked with analysing a range of pollutants, including gases, vapours and aerosols (fumes, dust, mists, organic/inorganic particles) that can affect air quality in RATP areas, offices, workshops, etc.

### What types of samples are taken?

Abraham takes three types of samples to check air quality in the workplace (workshop, maintenance site):

- he measures exposure on an individual basis to assess an employee's exposure,
- he takes samples at fixed locations (atmospheric measuring) and namely at designated points to assess the level and movement of pollutants, etc.
- he checks sanitation and ventilation systems in the workplace

Abraham follows a four-step process to carry out these exposure measurements. First, he establishes a sampling strategy, identifying exactly what needs to be measured and answering several situational questions (Who? What? Where? When? How? And how many measurements to take).

He then runs sampling campaigns to have the samples analysed internally or at specialized laboratories.

Abraham interprets the results of the analyses and writes up a summary report. This report informs the customer about the measurements taken and whether or not they comply with the regulations in force.

### What is an important feature of this job?

"Knowledge of the regulations is not sufficient!"

"You also need sound technical knowledge and a good understanding of the issue to know which resources must be mobilized to meet customer needs. Mastering the measuring instruments is also a must for performing sampling work.

And lastly, having a curious mind is an essential tool in our business."

This seems to sum up Abraham's job spec perfectly.

### Ready on all fronts!

When Abraham is not chasing down chemical pollutants, he is busy helping to write standards and monitoring regulatory and technical developments.

Threshold values, sampling processes and standards can and do change. It is therefore important to monitor regulatory changes to ensure compliance with the regulations in force.



## HIS CAREER IN THREE STAGES

2012

- ★ Hired by the LEM on a consultancy basis

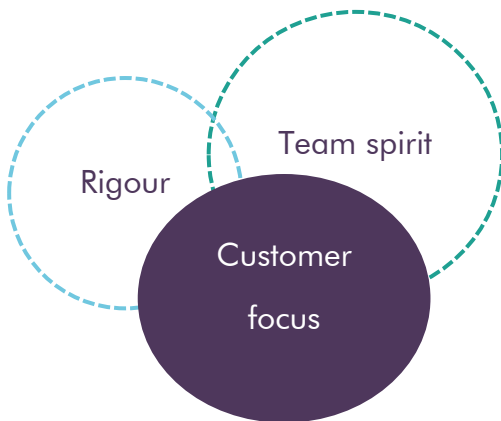
2019

- ★ Joined the LEM as a Test Officer

2021

- ★ Took up his position as a Technical Manager

## 3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR JOB?



## ONE ASSIGNMENT THAT LEFT ITS MARK?

"Yes, it was after the Covid pandemic when employee health and safety had to meet the highest levels. The company was intent on taking all the necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of its employees.

The purpose of my work was to measure the initial air quality in several buses after they were disinfected by nebulization. We then established a sampling plan (disinfection by nebulization, spraying a virucidal mist inside the bus). The sampling plan involved monitoring various pollutants and how their levels evolved. The findings did not highlight any particular inhalation risks once the product had been sprayed.

This disinfection by nebulization protocol could therefore be deployed in all bus centres.

I have a good memory of this assignment because it took me out of my normal routine, ensuring that services were maintained and the health of passengers, drivers and maintenance workers was protected."

## WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD IN YOUR JOB?



*"For customers to be satisfied, you must understand what they need, find suitable solutions and answer their questions by taking measurements and providing evidence. I find pride in resolving a problem through investigation."*

*"Designed to protect the lives and health of employees, my job is both noble and rewarding. The work is never routine because every challenge and situation is different."*



## A QUOTE TO ROUND OFF THIS INTERVIEW?



"I never lose. I either win or learn."  
Nelson MANDELA