

ADDENDA

**ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Addendum ad
to ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013**

Ventilation of Health Care Facilities

Approved by the ASHRAE Standards Committee on June 25, 2016; by the ASHRAE Board of Directors on June 29, 2016; by the American Society for Healthcare Engineering on May 23, 2016; and by the American National Standards Institute on July 27, 2016.

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ASHRAE obtains consensus through participation of its national and international members, associated societies, and public review.

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FOREWORD

The issue addressed here is to avoid placing a patient into a room that would cause a risk to staff or visitors due to undiagnosed infected individuals with gastrointestinal, respiratory, or skin pathogens. Since examination rooms are the first point of close physical contact with undiagnosed patients, these rooms have a higher risk than spaces that contain patients who have already been diagnosed.

Addendum ad subdivides examination rooms beyond the current division of emergency and nonemergency rooms and establishes air change rates commensurate with the risk within those specialized rooms. Administrative controls (such as assignment of patients to specialized rooms) are an important preventive strategy to supplement the benefit of environmental controls. As such, these administrative controls—e.g., phone triage, prompt triage to an area away from others, and assignment to a special examination room—would be applied to people presenting with undiagnosed gastrointestinal, respiratory, or skin infection symptoms.

This room classification is one step in the continuum of protection from examination room to procedure room or operating room. Because the majority of examination rooms will not be required to protect staff and visitors from gastrointestinal, respiratory, or skin disease transmission, the air change rate requirements can be reduced in both total and outdoor air volumes. This division of examination rooms is not applicable to emergency department examination rooms.

Note: In this addendum, changes to the current standard are indicated in the text by underlining (for additions) and ~~deletions~~ (for deletions) unless the instructions specifically mention some other means of indicating the changes.

Addendum ad to Standard 170-2013

Revised Table 7.1 as shown. The remainder of Table 7.1 is unchanged.

TABLE 7.1 Design Parameters

Function of Space	Pressure Relationship to Adjacent Areas (n)	Minimum		All Room Air Exhausted Directly to Outdoors (j)	Air Recirculated by Means of Room Units (a)	Design Relative Humidity (k), %	Design Temperature (l), °F/°C
		Outdoor ach	Total ach				
[...]							
DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT							
[...]	NR	2	4	NR	NR	max 60	70–75/21–24
General examination room							
Special Examination room (aa)	NR	2	6	NR	NR	max 60	70–75/21–24
[...]							

Notes for Table 7.1:

[...]

aa. Examination rooms programmed for use by patients with undiagnosed gastrointestinal symptoms, undiagnosed respiratory symptoms, or undiagnosed skin symptoms.

POLICY STATEMENT DEFINING ASHRAE'S CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ITS ACTIVITIES

ASHRAE is concerned with the impact of its members' activities on both the indoor and outdoor environment. ASHRAE's members will strive to minimize any possible deleterious effect on the indoor and outdoor environment of the systems and components in their responsibility while maximizing the beneficial effects these systems provide, consistent with accepted Standards and the practical state of the art.

ASHRAE's short-range goal is to ensure that the systems and components within its scope do not impact the indoor and outdoor environment to a greater extent than specified by the Standards and Guidelines as established by itself and other responsible bodies.

As an ongoing goal, ASHRAE will, through its Standards Committee and extensive Technical Committee structure, continue to generate up-to-date Standards and Guidelines where appropriate and adopt, recommend, and promote those new and revised Standards developed by other responsible organizations.

Through its *Handbook*, appropriate chapters will contain up-to-date Standards and design considerations as the material is systematically revised.

ASHRAE will take the lead with respect to dissemination of environmental information of its primary interest and will seek out and disseminate information from other responsible organizations that is pertinent, as guides to updating Standards and Guidelines.

The effects of the design and selection of equipment and systems will be considered within the scope of the system's intended use and expected misuse. The disposal of hazardous materials, if any, will also be considered.

ASHRAE's primary concern for environmental impact will be at the site where equipment within ASHRAE's scope operates. However, energy source selection and the possible environmental impact due to the energy source and energy transportation will be considered where possible. Recommendations concerning energy source selection should be made by its members.

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