

**INTERPRETATION IC 52.2-2012-2 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 52.2-2012**
*Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices
for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size*

Approval Date: October 27, 2014

Request from: Gregory Stender (Gregory.stender@navy.mil), Naval Surface Warfare Center, 5001 S Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19112.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2012, Section 6.2, regarding loading dust for testing filtration devices.

Background: Section 6.2 of Standard 52.2-2012 states:

6.2 Loading Dust

6.2.1 The loading dust for testing the filtration device shall be composed, by weight, of 72% SAE Standard J726 test dust (fine), 23% powdered carbon, and 5% milled cotton linters.

SAE Standard J726 test dust is largely made up of silica (SiO₂) which is a carcinogen. OSHA is making even stricter rules about the exposure to silica.

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/crystalline-factsheet.pdf

Interpretation: To test filters per Standard 52.2-2012, one must use SAE Standard J726 test dust, which contains large amounts of silica.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: Per the current ASHRAE 52.2-2012 standard the dust is to be comprised of 72% SAE Standard J726 test dust (fine).

With OSHA making stricter rules on the exposure to silica and with possible exposure to Silica during lab testing the 52.2 committee will add this as a topic at the next meeting in Chicago on 1-24-15 to discuss.