

**Interpretation IC 170-2013-8 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

Date Approved: January 26, 2016

Request from: Mark Tome, CESI, 2209 Chestnut Road, York, PA 17408.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013, Section 7.4.1, regarding the location of return and exhaust grilles in Class B and C operating rooms.

Background: The last two paragraphs of Section 7.4.1 describe the placement of return/exhaust grilles as follows:

“The room shall be provided with at least two low side-wall return or exhaust grilles spaced at opposite corners or as far apart as possible, with the bottom of these grilles installed approximately 8in. (203mm) above the floor.

Exception: In addition to the required low return (or exhaust) air grilles, such grilles may be placed high on the walls.”

Interpretation: Since these two paragraphs do not mention locations other than walls, return or exhaust registers in the ceiling (or floor) are not permitted in Class B and C operating rooms.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: No.

Comments: The main return/exhaust grilles are intended to be located in the wall, not the ceiling. Other secondary exhaust grilles (e.g. smoke, anesthesia) could perhaps be located in the ceiling.