

**INTERPRETATION IC 62-2001-05 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 62-2001  
VENTILATION FOR ACCEPTABLE INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

TRANSFER APPROVED: 1/12/2002

Originally issued as interpretation of Standard 62-1989 (IC 62-1989-20) on January 29, 1995, but revised (IC 62-1999-3) on February 5, 2000, based on approval of Addendum 62f and publication of Standard 62-1999. Revisions made to all Background, Question and Answer statements to reflect Standard 62-1999 language. Subsequently transferred to Standard 62-2001. Since no changes were made to the relevant sections of Standard 62-2001, no revisions were made to the interpretation as part of this transfer.

**Request from:** Debbie Paolini, Manager of Health and Safety, The Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board, 40 Matheson Blvd. West, Mississauga, Ontario L5R 1C5, CANADA

**References:** This request refers to the CO<sub>2</sub> requirements in ASHRAE Standard 62-2001, 6.1.3 Ventilation Requirements.

**Background:**

Exception #2 under 6.1.3 Ventilation Requirements, reads in part: " Comfort (odor) criteria with respect to human bioeffluents are likely to be satisfied if the ventilation results in indoor CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations less than 700 ppm above the outdoor concentration."

CO<sub>2</sub> is also referenced in 6.2.1, Quantitative Evaluation, in Table 3, Guidelines for Selected Air Contaminants of Indoor Origin and in Appendix D, Rationale for Minimum Physiological Requirements For Respiration Air Based on CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations.

It is unclear what is meant by the clause, "ventilation results in indoor CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations less than 700 ppm above the outdoor concentration."

In Ms. Paolini's letter requesting the original interpretation she stated, "as a result of continuous monitoring of indoor air quality using CO<sub>2</sub> levels in several classrooms, we have noted that CO<sub>2</sub> levels peak when students enter the classroom in the morning, after morning recess, after lunch and after afternoon recess. In some instances these peaks are above 1000 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>. Recently the provincial Ministry of Labour issued a Compliance Order at one of the schools to 'reduce the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> below the guideline of 1000 ppm, whenever the classrooms are occupied.'"

**Question 1:** Is the 700 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> a ceiling value or a time weighted average value?

**Answer 1:** The reference to 700 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> in Section 6.1.3 is only as a point of information. This is not a requirement of ASHRAE 62-2001. Since it is not a requirement it is neither a ceiling value nor a time weighted average value. Rather, it can be considered an indicator that the outdoor air ventilation may not meet the minimum requirements of the standard. Since the comfort (odor) criteria are likely to be satisfied when the CO<sub>2</sub> does not exceed 700 ppm above outdoors the converse is also likely to be true, i.e., when the CO<sub>2</sub> level exceeds 700 ppm above outdoors, the comfort (odor) criteria may not be satisfied.

**Question 2:** If it is a time weighted average value, how are CO<sub>2</sub> test results to be calculated and weighted?

**Answer 2:** Moot because of Answer 1.

**Question 3:** Would CO<sub>2</sub> levels measured only during room occupancy be used or CO<sub>2</sub> levels measured throughout the time period of ventilation system operation?

**Answer 3:** CO<sub>2</sub> levels should be considered only during the time of occupancy, since the significance of indoor CO<sub>2</sub> levels relates to the perception of human bioeffluents and such perception is only an issue when the space is occupied. This is defined for the classroom as the time between initial occupancy in the morning and dismissal time for students.