How ASHRAE 170 Interacts with FGI Guidelines

THE DIRECT ANSWER

ASHRAE 170 and the FGI Guidelines are companion documents by design : 170 originated in an agreement between ASHRAE and FGI that ventilation requirements belonged in an ASHRAE standard, and the FGI Guidelines reference Standard 170 for ventilation rather than duplicating it. FGI sets the program, space, and planning requirements (what rooms, how big, adjacencies); 170 sets the ventilation engineering (ACH, pressure, filtration, temperature, humidity) for those spaces. The 2021 edition restructured 170 into hospital, outpatient, and residential sections mirroring FGI's own three documents.

HOW THEY DIVIDE THE WORK

- FGI decides: which spaces a facility needs, minimum sizes and clearances, room relationships and adjacencies.
- ASHRAE 170 decides: how each of those spaces is ventilated — air changes, pressure relationships, filtration, temperature, humidity.
- Neither duplicates the other: FGI points to 170 for ventilation numbers; 170 points to FGI space definitions (its tables cite FGI section numbers).

THE 2026 RENAME

- With FGI's 2026 documents renamed from "Guidelines" to FGI Codes , the relationship continues — the Codes still reference ASHRAE 170 for ventilation. When your state adopts an FGI edition into code, it effectively adopts the referenced 170 requirements with it.

FIELD QUESTION

Does FGI include ventilation requirements?

FGI references ASHRAE 170 for ventilation rather than duplicating it — the two are companion documents.

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Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.