Healthcare Construction Containment - Daily Field Sheet

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Healthcare construction containment is the physical system that keeps dust, fungal spores, and contaminated air from leaving a work zone in an occupied facility. The barrier, the airflow, the entry path, the housekeeping, and the paperwork all count as part of it. The ASHE ICRA 2.0 matrix tells you which class of precautions a job needs (Class I through V); containment is how you build that class, keep it working every shift, and take it down without letting dust out at the last minute. In occupied buildings the same barrier is usually also a life-safety element, so Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM) and NFPA 241 apply too.

DAILY INSPECTION CHECKLIST (FROM THE GUIDE)

- Permit and class posted and current. Scope has not grown beyond the permit.
- Barrier intact: no tears, gaps, or loose tape at floor, ceiling, seams, corners. Barrier continuous to the deck where tile is removed; plenum openings sealed.
- Penetrations sealed; new penetrations logged.
- Doors self-close and latch, nothing propped, one anteroom door open at a time.
- Pressure display within set point; log reviewed for overnight excursions; alarm tested per policy.
- Airflow direction confirmed at doors with a smoke tube or tissue.
- Negative air machines running, pre-filters acceptable, ducting intact, discharge at the approved location.
- Adhesive mats clean and changed when soiled. Debris contained, carts covered, containers damp-wiped before leaving.
- ILSM items in place: exits clear, alternate routes signed, extinguishers accessible, fire watch if required.
- Any breach or complaint documented with corrective action.

FIELD QUESTION

Where does the containment class come from?

The ASHE ICRA 2.0 matrix pairs the construction activity type (A-D) with the patient risk group to assign precaution Classes I through V. The ICRA is completed before the project starts, and the permit is signed by infection prevention and facilities for higher classes.

Containment is a system, not a plastic sheet: barrier, airflow, entry path, housekeeping, paperwork.

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.