Healthcare HVAC Commissioning: Testing, Balancing, and Ongoing Compliance Verification

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Healthcare HVAC commissioning is the documented process of inspecting, testing, adjusting, and balancing ventilation so pressure relationships, air change rates, temperature, humidity, and filtration match the enforced design basis—typically ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 (confirm whether your authority having jurisdiction applies 170-2025 or an earlier adoption) and applicable FGI planning requirements. Initial commissioning establishes baseline performance; ongoing verification and preventive maintenance keep accredited hospitals and CMS-participating facilities aligned with environment-of-care expectations after filters change, controls are retuned, or spaces are renovated.

WHY COMMISSIONING MATTERS IN HOSPITALS

- Design drawings describe intent; TAB and functional testing prove what the building actually delivers. A missed exhaust connection or a damper left pinned open shows up later as failed pressure maps, humidity drift, or survey findings—not as a line item on a.

TYPICAL COMMISSIONING PHASES

- Pre-operational: Installation inspection, controls checkout, and readiness reviews before sustained operation
- Operational (TAB): Measured airflows, pressure relationships, temperature and humidity performance, and control sequences under design loads
- Ongoing verification: Scheduled reverification, trend review, and recommissioning after renovations or major equipment changes

FIELD QUESTION

Where does this come from?

This sheet distills the full Healthcare Facility Hub article linked below, which carries the complete text, references, and sourcing.

From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.

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.