ICRA Class IV and Class V Requirements

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Class IV requires NFPA 241 critical barriers to the ceiling or deck above, sealed UL-firestopped penetrations, continuous negative pressure with HEPA exhaust outdoors, isolated HVAC , a required anteroom , worker decontamination, and an infection control permit before work begins. Class V — the highest level, added in ICRA 2.0 — applies to major demolition/construction in high and highest-risk patient areas and to environmental hazards (sewage, mold, asbestos, gray/black water) in those areas, layering maximum precautions on top of the Class IV package.

CLASS IV REQUIREMENTS

- Critical barriers per NFPA 241, full height to ceiling or deck above; no open plenum bypass
- All penetrations sealed; UL-listed firestop where the barrier is rated
- Entire workspace continuously negatively pressurized (-0.01" w.c. is a widely used facility target, not an ICRA 2.0 or CDC requirement) via HEPA exhaust
- Exhaust directed outdoors; indoor discharge HEPA-filtered at ≥99.97%
- Supply and return diffusers removed or isolated
- Anteroom required; workers HEPA-vacuumed or change coveralls
- Projects over two weeks require hard barriers

WHEN CLASS V APPLIES

- Per the ICRA 2.0 matrix: Type D (major demolition/construction) in high-risk areas, Type C or D in the highest-risk group (ORs, ICUs, oncology, transplant, sterile areas) — and environmental hazard conditions (sewage, mold, asbestos, gray/black water) in high/highest-risk areas.

FIELD QUESTION

What is the difference between Class IV and Class V?

Class IV is the full containment package (critical barriers, negative pressure, anteroom, permit). Class V applies it to the highest-risk scenarios — major work in high/highest-risk patient areas and environmental hazards — with maximum precautions and oversight.

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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.