

What Is ASHRAE Standard 170? Ventilation for Healthcare Facilities, Explained

THE DIRECT ANSWER

ASHRAE Standard 170 (ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE 170) sets minimum ventilation requirements for healthcare facilities room by room: pressure relationships, air changes per hour, exhaust and filtration, temperature and humidity. FGI incorporates it by reference; states enforce the edition they adopted.

IT SPECIFIES, PER SPACE

- Pressure: positive, negative, or none.
- Outdoor and total air changes per hour.
- Exhaust/recirculation rules and filter levels.
- Temperature and humidity ranges.

IT WORKS WITH

- FGI Guidelines - design standard, incorporates 170.
- ASHRAE 62.1 - general buildings; 170 governs healthcare.
- CMS physical environment - ventilation as a survey subject.

FIELD QUESTION

Which edition applies to my facility?

The edition adopted by your state at the project's trigger date - different wings can legitimately run under different editions.

170 is the ventilation layer of healthcare design - and of survey readiness.

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.

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