HEALTHCARE FACILITY HUB · VERIFIED FIELD REFERENCE SHEET

ASHRAE 170 Humidity & Temperature Control Field Sheet

Date: November 22, 2026 · **Source:** https://healthcarefacilityhub.org/ashrae-170-humidity-control-hospitals/

1. Design Relative Humidity (RH) & Temperature by Space (ASHRAE 170 Table 7-1)

Space Function	Design RH	Design Temp (deg F)	Code Change / Survey Note
Operating Room (OR) / Surgical Suite	20% - 60% RH	68 deg F - 75 deg F*	*Min RH lowered from 30% in 2017; surgeons often request 62-65 deg F.
Procedure Rooms & Cesarean Delivery	20% - 60% RH	Cesarean: 68-75 deg F; Procedure: 70-75 deg F	Per ASHRAE 170 Table 7-1 / s.8.4.1 distinct space criteria.
Patient Rooms & Intensive Care (ICU)	Max 60% RH (No Min)	70 deg F - 75 deg F	No mandatory minimum; 60% ceiling enforced to prevent mold.
Sterile Storage / Clean Workroom	Max 60% RH (AAMI ST79)	Max 75 deg F	Coordinated with ANSI/AAMI ST79 sterile processing parameters.
Endoscopy Procedure & Reprocessing	20% - 60% RH	68 deg F - 73 deg F	Applies to GI Endoscopy Procedure Room; Endoscope Cleaning/Reprocessing is a separate negative-pressure room in Table 7-1.
Waiting / Support Spaces (select)	Max 60% - 65% RH	Per Table 7-1	Most clinical spaces capped at 60% RH; select support spaces at 65% RH.

2. Operational & Survey Rules

- **HVAC-Controlled Only:** Portable humidifiers in clinical spaces are an infection risk and generally prohibited.
- **Monitoring & Excursions:** Trend RH continuously in ORs and controlled spaces; excursions outside Table 7-1 bounds are survey-notable.

Field-reference notice: Values above are verified against primary standards cited on the source guide as of November 22, 2026. Confirm local AHJ, state licensure, and facility IC/life-safety policy before execution.