

**INTERPRETATION IC 62-1989-15 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 62-1989  
VENTILATION FOR ACCEPTABLE INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

June 3, 1994

**Request from:** Barry L. Spurlock, P.E., Member, Georgia Building and Mechanical Task Force, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, 1200 Equitable Building, 100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303.

**References.** This request refers to the intermittent and variable occupancy criteria in Standard 62-1989, 6.1.3.4.

**Background.** Mr. Spurlock's letter cites Table 2.2 requirement that outside air be provided in school classrooms at the rate of 15 cfm per person.

Subsection 6.1.3.4 deals with intermittent or variable occupancy and states in part: "Where peak occupancies of less than three hours duration occur, the outdoor air flow rate may be determined on the basis of average occupancy for buildings for the duration of the operation of the system, provided the average occupancy is not less than one half the maximum."

Mr. Spurlock's letter also enclosed typical schedules for elementary, middle and high schools in the Gwinnett County Georgia Public Schools. These schedules indicate that on a typical day the HVAC systems run 510 minutes and during this time the classroom is occupied 250 minutes or 49 percent of the time. Also enclosed is an actual schedule for a typical elementary school classroom indicating that the classroom is occupied 44 percent of the time.

Mr. Spurlock's letter interprets that, using this occupancy rate and the variable occupancy rule, the outside air to a typical classroom can be reduced to a level required by the average occupancy of the space, which in this example is half the peak occupancy. The outdoor air required for this average occupancy is 15 cfm per person.

**Question.** Is Mr. Spurlock's interpretation correct?

**Answer.** Yes.