

**INTERPRETATION IC 62-1989-30 OF
ANSI/ ASHRAE STANDARD 62-1989
VENTILATION FOR ACCEPTABLE INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

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Request from: Suzanne K. Condon, Department of Public Health, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 01206-4619, (Contact Michael Feeney, 617 624-5757).

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62-1989, Section 6.1.3 Ventilation Requirements, Exception 1.

Background: Section 6.1.3 Exception 1 requires that when “unusual indoor contaminants or sources are present or anticipated, they shall be controlled at the source or the procedure of section 6.2 (i.e., the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Procedure) shall be followed.” The renovation of a building can involve a number of activities that release volatile organic compounds, and other indoor air pollutants. The question has arisen of how to apply ASHRAE Standard 62-1989 to situations of high contaminant emission rates shortly after renovation.

Condon's Interpretation No. 1: Volatile organic compounds and other contaminants that off-gas at high rates shortly after renovation are “unusual indoor contaminants or sources” in the context of Exception 1 to section 6.1.3 of ASHRAE Standard 62-1989.

Question No. 1: Is Condon’s Interpretation No. 1 correct?

Answer: Yes, but only if the contaminants and their emission rates lead to unacceptable indoor air quality.

Comment: ASHRAE Standard 62-1989 does not specifically address the contaminants associated with renovation. Such contaminants, including VOCs, and the emission rates that exist after renovation may or may not lead to unacceptable indoor air quality in a building ventilated at the rates in Table 2 of ASHRAE Standard 62-1989, and therefore, may nor may not constitute unusual contaminants or sources. In order to determine whether the contaminants and emission rates are unusual within the context of Standard 62-1989 requires an analysis of the contaminants, their emission rates and the ventilation rates that exist in a given situation.

Condon's Interpretation No. 2: The Indoor Air Quality Procedure of Section 6.2 is the required procedure for achieving acceptable indoor air quality in a building after renovations.

Question No. 2: Is Condon’s Interpretation No. 2 correct?

Answer: No

Comment: As noted in the response to Question No. 1 above, the emissions associated with renovation do not necessarily constitute an unusual source. If they do, then Exception 1 in Section 6.1.3 requires the use of either source control or the IAQ Procedure. Even if the post-renovation emissions do not constitute an unusual contaminant or source, it may be prudent to operate the ventilation system for extended periods of time or at elevated outdoor air intake rates until these emissions abate, or to delay occupancy for a period of time.