

**INTERPRETATION IC 62-1999-21 OF  
ASHRAE STANDARD 62-1999  
VENTILATION FOR ACCEPTABLE INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

TRANSFER TO 62-1999 APPROVED: August 14, 2000

Originally issued as interpretation of Standard 62-1989 (IC 62-1989-13) on January 20, 1994, but transferred to Standard 62-1999. Since no changes were made to the relevant sections of Standard 62-1999, no revisions were made to the interpretation as part of this transfer.

**Request from:** Dennis Stefani, Executive Officer, Environmental Services, Calgary Health Services, PO Box 4016, Station "C", 320 17th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2T 5T1 CANADA

**References.** This request refers to the requirements given in ASHRAE Standard 62-1989, Appendix C, Guidance for the Establishment of Air Quality Criteria for the Indoor Environment.

**Background.** Appendix C, third paragraph, states in part that it has been customary to use 1/10 the TLV in indoor environments occupied by the public.

**Question.** Is this recommendation inclusive of the TLV averaging times and ceiling limits? In other words, if the TLV for compound "x" is 20 ppm, 8 hour time weighted average (TWA), is the public exposure guideline an 8 hour TWA as well?

**Answer.** No

**Comments.** The "divide by ten" guide is an attempt to give a sense of the concentration of concern for various chemicals where indoor air standards do not exist. This guide is not provided in professional hygiene documents and there is no consensus within the industrial hygiene community as to its appropriateness. (Note ASHRAE conference proceedings *IAQ92 Environments for People*, including the discussion at the end of the Peter Breyse paper, pp. 13-21.) Any attempt to use this rule in a precise way, as implied by this question, is contrary to its intended use as a scale factor.

The appropriate use of TLVs, and any set "criteria values" in consideration of indoor environments has been proposed as a topic to be covered in the next revision of ASHRAE 62.