INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2016-7 OF 
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2016 
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

Date Approved: April 7, 2018

Request from: Mike Donovan, HTS, 3350 Yale Street, Houston, TX 77018.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2016, Sections 6.5.3.1.3, regarding fan efficiency.

Background: When complying with the prescriptive path of 90.1, it is required to comply with the mandatory provisions (6.4) and the prescriptive path (6.5). An interpretation (IC 90.1-2013-15 and IC 90.1-2016-4) ruled that verification of the FEG falls under ASHRAE 90.1 Section 6.4.1.4 and that because there is a certification program for FEG ratings, subparts b and c apply. Subpart b says that if a certification program exists for a covered product, and it includes provisions for verification and challenge of equipment efficiency ratings, then the product shall be listed in the certification program. Subpart c says that if a certification program exists for a covered product, and it includes provisions for verification and challenge of equipment efficiency ratings, but the product is not listed in the existing certification program, the ratings shall be verified by an independent laboratory test report. The AMCA 205 certification program would cover subpart b and an independent lab certified to verify AMCA 205 calculated FEG numbers would cover subpart c.

Interpretation: The manufacturer of a fan within the scope of 90.1 claims their fan has an FEG of 67 or greater. The fan is not certified under a certification program that includes provisions for verification and challenge of equipment efficiency ratings, such as the AMCA 205 rating program and does not have ratings verified by an independent laboratory test report. This fan does not comply with the prescriptive path of 90.1.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: The fan efficiency FEG requirements in clause 6.5.3.1.3 fall under the requirements of 6.4.1.4 Verification of Equipment Efficiencies. Since a certification program exists for a covered product and that program includes provisions for verification and challenge of equipment efficiency ratings, such as the AMCA Certified Ratings Program, fans within the scope of 90.1 must either be listed in a certification program or the fan ratings must be verified by an independent laboratory test report.