Interpretation IC 170-2013-3 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities

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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE
Standard 170-2013, Section 1, regarding environmental control for comfort, asepsis, and odor.

Background: Section 1 states the purpose of the standard is to "define ventilation system design
requirements that provide environmental control for comfort, asepsis and odor in health care
facilities".

There is not a definition of “environmental control” in the standard. It is not clear if
“environmental control” encompasses acceptable indoor air quality.

If not, designers seeking to provide acceptable indoor air quality would need to apply other
standards (“acceptable indoor air quality” is elsewhere defined in ASHRAE Standard 62.1-
2013.)

Interpretation: “Environmental control for comfort, asepsis, and odor” (§1 of Standard 170)
excludes “acceptable indoor air quality”.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes.