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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to Table 6-1 of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2004 dealing with Minimum Ventilation Rates in Breathing Zone.

Background: A client has mechanical design requirements that state, “ASHRAE Standard 62 shall be used to calculate the minimum acceptable outdoor air rate and verify that indoor contaminants are below acceptable levels.” I can respond to the first portion of the statement regarding calculating “minimum outdoor air rates” by referring to Table 6-1. However, I am having difficulty with the requirements of “verify that indoor contaminants are below acceptable levels”. Appendix B of Standard 62.1-2004 is for indoor environment air pollutants and is not part of the Standard and Table 4-1 is for outdoor air contaminants. Other than assuming acceptable contaminant levels are met when outdoor air rates are provided in accordance with Table 6-1, I don’t see that Standard 62 sets acceptable indoor contaminant levels.

Interpretation: ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2004 does not set mandatory maximum acceptable levels of indoor contaminants.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: However, the standard contains acceptable levels for some contaminants in Table 4-1 that are not mandatory.