Originally issued as interpretation of Standard 62-2001 (IC 62-2001-46) on January 24, 2004, but transferred to Standard 62.1-2004. Since no changes were made to the relevant sections of Standard 62.1-2004, no revisions were made to the interpretation as part of this transfer.

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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to changes to the Standard as a result of Addendum h to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62-2001 that modified the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Procedure and are now incorporated as Section 6.3 of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2004.

Background: Section 6.3, Indoor Air Quality Procedure requires an objective analysis of concentration and exposure time for contaminants of concern. Informative Appendix B summarizes target concentrations for specific exposure times for many potential contaminants, but not for ETS.

When applying the IAQ Procedure, both no-smoking and smoking areas must be ventilated as necessary to maintain the concentration of contaminants of concern at or below target levels established by cognizant authorities, after accounting for both source strength and air cleaning for each contaminant.

To my knowledge, no cognizant authority has established an acceptable concentration for ETS. Section 6.3.1.2 requires specification of a maximum concentration limit and exposure period for each contaminant of concern and refers the user to Appendix B of Standard 62.1-2004 for guidance. According to this appendix, for contaminants with no established standards or guidelines, such as ETS, the target concentration and exposure time may be determined by seeking “expertise” or by conducting research to determine acceptable concentrations and exposures.

Interpretation: If the target concentration and exposure time for ETS is determined by experts or based upon research the IAQ procedure can be applied to determine required ventilation rate and air cleaning requirements in ETS-Areas.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: No

Comments: Section 6.3.1.2 requires an appropriate reference to a cognizant authority (see definition found in Section 3).