

ASHRAE Technical FAQ

ID 112

Question Does [ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2017](#)'s MERV method of test consider filter efficiency testing in field service conditions?

The [ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2017](#) describes a method of laboratory testing to measure the performance of general ventilation air-cleaning devices. It is not intended for testing filters in the field.

ASHRAE Guideline 26 was published in 2008 to address the need for field testing. It was adopted by the International Organization for Standardization, and is now available as ISO 29462:2013 “Field testing of general ventilation filtration devices and systems for in situ removal efficiency by particle size and resistance to airflow”. ASHRAE has now withdrawn Guideline 26.

Answer

[Addendum 52.2b](#) to the 2007 version of the standard added the *informative* (optional) Appendix J to the Standard. Appendix J provides a method of conditioning a filter using ultrafine KCl particles to demonstrate efficiency loss that might be realized in field applications. This procedure is an outcome of ASHRAE research projects ([ASHRAE RP-1190](#), “Develop a New Loading Dust and Dust Loading Procedures for the ASHRAE Filter Test Standards 52.1 and 52.2” and [ASHRAE RP-1189](#), “Investigation of Mechanisms and Operating Environments that Impact the Filtration Efficiency of Charged Air Filtration Media”, and subsequent committee action.

[ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2017](#), Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size, plus [ASHRAE BOD approved addenda](#).

ASHRAE Pubs [Addendum 52.2b-2007](#)

[ASHRAE RP-1190](#)

[ASHRAE RP-1189](#)

Topic References MERV, filter, efficiency, testing, service conditions, field application, Appendix J, addendum 52.2b

	Cognizant ASHRAE Committees	Refer to Organization
1	SSPC 52.2	
2	TC 2.4	
3		
4		
5		