What are ASHRAE's recommendations for filtration efficiency for commercial applications?

Table 2, page 29.10 of the ASHRAE 2016 ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Systems and Equipment lists typical filter applications classified by filter efficiency and types for various commercial applications.

ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2016 recommends a minimum MERV 6 for commercial applications. Many buildings have filtration systems up to MERV 13 depending on the occupancy and use of the facility. MERV ratings are defined in ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2017.

The handbook and the other publications may be purchased and/or individual chapters of the handbook may be purchased and downloaded on-line at our website, www.ashrae.org or by calling 1-800-527-4723 in the USA and Canada or 1-404-636-8400 worldwide.

Other organizations that can provide guidance include:

ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
AIA – American Institute of Architects
AIHA - American Industrial Hygiene Association
EPA – US Environmental Protection Agency
NAFA - National Air Filtration Association
NIOSH - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

2016 ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Systems and Equipment, Chapter S29
ASHRAE Position Document on Filtration and Air Cleaning

ASHRAE Pubs

Topic References commercial filtration
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