

ADDENDA

**ANSI/ASHRAE Addendum y to
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2025**

Ventilation of Health Care Facilities

Approved by ASHRAE and the American National Standards Institute on September 22, 2026, and by the American Society for Health Care Engineering on September 11, 2026.

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FOREWORD

Addendum y follows up on when the committee addressed research supporting changes stemming from ASHRAE Research Project CO-RP-03, Academic Research to Support Facilities Guidelines Institute & ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170, published in 2019. This research determined that the definitive value of 20 ach for operating rooms was not scientifically justified but could also not be rejected either.

A group of clinicians, engineers, researchers, and facilities managers has since implemented a future work research task from CO-RP-03 that focused on collecting operating testing and balancing data and compared those against published SSI rates for the corresponding hospital.

The research team collected testing and balancing data from 45 hospitals containing 521 operating rooms from three geographically diverse health systems. Key results determined that increased ventilation does not lead to reduced SSI and leads to a marginal increase in SSI rates.

Accordingly, SSPC 170 reviewed the research and recommends that prior to performing operational adjustments to operating room space ventilation, a risk assessment should be completed. New related notes are also added to Tables 7-1 and 8-1.

Informative Note: In this addendum, changes to the current standard are indicated in the text by underlining (for additions) and ~~striketrough~~ (for deletions) unless the instructions specifically mention some other means of indicating the changes.

Addendum y to Standard 170-2025

Modify Table 7-1 and related notes as shown. The remainder of Table 7-1 and notes are unchanged.

Table 7-1 Design Parameters—Inpatient Spaces

Function of Space (a)	Pressure Relationship to Adjacent Areas (b)	Minimum Outdoor ach	Minimum Total ach	All Room Air Exhausted Directly to Outdoors (c)	Air Recirculated by Means of Room Units (d)	Unoccupied Minimum Filter Turndown	Minimum Filter Efficiencies (e)	Design Relative Humidity (f), %	Design Temperature (g), °F/°C
NURSING UNITS AND OTHER PATIENT CARE AREAS									
[...]									
Cesarean delivery room (FGI 2.2-2.10.11.1) (j, k)	Positive	4	20 (ii)	NR	No	Yes	MERV-16 (l)	20–60	68–75/20–24
[...]									
Operating room (FGI 2.2-3.4.3) (j, k)	Positive	4	20 (ii)	NR	No	Yes	MERV-16 (l)	20–60	68–75/20–24
[...]									
DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT									
[...]									
Class 3 imaging room (FGI 2.2-3.5.2 & FGI Table 2.2-2) (j, k, x)	Positive	4	20 (ii)	NR	No	Yes	MERV-16 (l)	20–60	68–75/21–24
[...]									

Normative Notes for Table 7-1:

[...]

- ii. Prior to performing operational adjustments to space ventilation, a risk assessment shall be completed. Risk assessment and operational criteria shall be documented in a ventilation management plan (VMP). **Informative Note:** See ASHRAE/ASHE Guideline 43 for further guidance.

Modify Table 8-1 and related notes as shown. The remainder of Table 8-1 and notes are unchanged.

Table 8-1 Design Parameters—Specialized Outpatient Spaces

Function of Space (a)	Pressure Relationship to Adjacent Areas (b)	Minimum Outdoor ach	Minimum Total ach	All Room Air Exhausted Directly to Outdoors (c)	Air Recirculated by Means of Room Units (d)	Unoccupied Turndown	Minimum Filter Efficiencies (e)	Design Relative Humidity (f), %	Design Temperature (g), °F/°C
SURGERY AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED)									
Delivery (Cesarean) (FGI 2.1-3.2.4) (h, i, j, k)	Positive	4	20 (kk)	NR	No	Yes	MERV-16 (l)	20–60	68–75/20–24
[...]									
Operating room (FGI 2.1-3.2.4) (h, i, j, k)	Positive	4	20 (kk)	NR	No	Yes	MERV-16 (l)	20–60	68–75/20–24
[...]									
DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT									
[...]									
Class 3 imaging room (FGI 2.3-3.2.4) (h, i, w)	Positive	4	20 (kk)	NR	No	Yes	MERV-16 (l)	20–60	68–75/20–24
[...]									

Normative Notes for Table 8-1:

[...]

kk. Prior to performing operational adjustments to space ventilation, a risk assessment shall be completed. Risk assessment and operational criteria shall be documented in a ventilation management plan (VMP). **Informative Note:** See ASHRAE/ASHE Guideline 43 for further guidance.

Modify Informative Appendix F as shown. The remainder of Informative Appendix F is unchanged.

ASHRAE. 2025. ASHRAE/ASHE Guideline 43, *Operations Guideline for Ventilation of Health Care Facilities*. Peachtree Corners, GA: ASHRAE.

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