

**INTERPRETATION IC 62.1-2022-1 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 62.1-2022  
VENTILATION AND ACCEPTABLE INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

Approved: June 24, 2023

**Request from:** Max Sherman, 5 El Paraiso Ct, Moraga, CA 94556.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022, Section 2.4, regarding the scope of the standard.

**Background:** (Scope) Section 2.4 is unclear and needs interpretation or revision:

Quoting from the Standard:

**2.4** This standard does not prescribe specific ventilation rate requirements for the following:

- a. Spaces that contain smoking or that do not meet the requirements in the standard for separation from spaces that contain smoking
- b. Patient care areas not listed in this standard
- c. Laboratories with hazardous materials

This language is rather ambiguous to the users of the standard and can be interpreted several ways. This seems more to be a statement of fact rather than a scoping statement. If it is intended to limit the scope or application of the standard, it is not clear. For example when, if ever, can I be said to meet the standard in a laboratory with hazardous waste or an auditorium where smoking is allowed?

Are the 3 spaces in scope or out of scope? If they are in scope, what differentiates them from other things that are in scope? I have provided several interpretations and I would like to know what is correct. Depending on which the committee approves, some can probably be deleted.

**Interpretation No.1a:** The user of this standard may choose any ventilation rate for spaces covered under 2.4.a. and be in compliance with this standard, if all other requirements are met.

**Question No.1a:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.1a:** Yes

**Comments:** There is no ventilation rate requirement for a smoking space, however the building can be in compliance with the standard if the smoking space is separated per Section 5.3.

**Interpretation No.1b:** The user of this standard may choose any ventilation rate for spaces covered under 2.4.b. and be in compliance with this standard, if all other requirements are met.

**Question No.1b:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.1b:** No

**Comments:** Section 6.2.1 requires the use of ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 for ventilation in patient care areas covered under that standard.

**Interpretation No.1c:** The user of this standard may choose any ventilation rate for spaces covered under 2.4.c and be in compliance with this standard, if all other requirements are met.

**Question No.1c:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.1c:** No

**Comments:** Section 6.2.1.1.2 allows an environmental health and safety professional to establish additional ventilation rates for spaces with unusual sources, there is also a specific exception for laboratories under section 6.2.1.1.5 that follow ANSI/AIHA Z9.5.

**Interpretation No.2a:** The IAQP can be used in spaces covered under 2.4.a to demonstrate compliance with the standard.

**Question No.2a:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.2a:** No

**Comments:** There is no acceptable concentration limit of ETS which is a requirement of using the IAQP.

**Interpretation No.2b:** The IAQP can be used in spaces covered under 2.4.b to demonstrate compliance with the standard.

**Question No.2b:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.2b:** Yes

**Comments:** Yes, the IAQP can be used for patient care areas.

**Interpretation No.2c:** The IAQP can be used in spaces covered under 2.4.c to demonstrate compliance with the standard.

**Question No.2c:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.2c:** Yes

**Comments:** The IAQP can be used for laboratories with hazardous materials.

**Interpretation No.3:** This standard does not apply to the 3 listed spaces.

**Question No.3:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.3:** No

**Comments:** See comments above. Note that all other requirements for the HVAC systems not associated with ventilation rates would still apply.

**Interpretation No.4:** This standard applies to these 3 spaces, but while acceptable IAQ is the goal of this standard, it will not necessarily be achieved.

**Question No.4:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.4:** Yes

**Comments:** This is true of every space covered by the standard. Note that ETS spaces will never achieve acceptable indoor air quality.

**Interpretation No. 5:** This standard specifies ventilation rates for all spaces not listed in the standard other than patient rooms.

**Question No.5:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.5:** Yes

**Comments:** Refer to Section 2.1 and Unlisted Occupancies under Section 6.2.1.1.1.

**Interpretation No.6:** This standard specifies ventilation rates for spaces with hazardous materials except laboratories.

**Question No.6:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer No.6:** Yes

**Comments:** Refer to Table 6-1 and Section 6.2.1.1.2 for spaces with unusual sources.