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.