INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2013-10 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2013
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

Date Approved: June 27, 2016

Request from: Susanna Hanson, Trane, 3600 Pammel Creek Rd, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2013, Section 6.4.3.4 relating to motorized dampers and damper leakage.

Background: Section 6.4.3.4.2 *Shutoff Damper Controls* requires "motorized dampers for outdoor air intake and exhaust dampers that automatically shut **when the systems are not in use**" (emphasis added). This means that if a system is never not in use, then motorized, automatically closing dampers are not required, and no additional, explicit exception for continuously operated systems is required, though it would be helpful.

Section 6.4.3.4.3 *Damper Leakage* references maximum damper leakage levels whenever outdoor air supply and exhaust/relief dampers are required by Section 6.4.3.4.1 *Stair and Shaft Vents*. It seems odd that 6.4.3.4.1 would be referenced here and not 6.4.3.4.2, since most conditionally required dampers will be in mechanical equipment, not in stair and shaft vents which have dampers for fire and smoke control. I contend that this is a reference error. In the 2007 and 2010 versions, section 6.4.3.4.3 referenced 6.4.3.4, which then and still today is the parent section *Ventilation Systems Controls*, rather than the illogical reference to the sub-section on *Stair and Shaft Vents*. Sub-section 6.4.3.4.2 *Shutoff Damper Controls* is the relevant section on outdoor air and exhaust damper requirements in mechanical equipment within the mandatory portion of the standard, and this doesn't require motorized dampers if the system is always in use.

No publicly reviewed document deliberately changed the reference.

Interpretation: Standard 90.1 did not intend to require motorized dampers (low leak in many cases) in systems that are continuously operated. This is a reference error, and the reference to 6.4.3.4.1 from 6.4.3.4.3 should be corrected to 6.4.3.4 as erratum.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comment: We are developing an internally generated proposal to address the continuously operated system. The erratum will be fixed.