

**Interpretation IC 170-2008-4 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008, Section 7.4.1a, regarding the average air velocity of the diffusers in operating rooms.

Background: Section 7.4.1a states “The airflow shall be unidirectional, downwards, and the *average velocity* of the diffusers shall be 25 to 35 cfm/ft² (127 L/s/m² to 178 L/s/m²).”

Interpretation: The necessity for the prescribed average velocity of 25 to 35 cfm/ft² over the table area is to create a field of clear air during surgery. During unoccupied periods in the space and when surgery is not occurring, the airflow velocity can be reduced from the prescribed average velocity of 25 to 35 cfm/ft².

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes.

Comments: The “average velocity” may be reduced when the OR is unoccupied.