

**Interpretation IC 170-2008-7 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

Date Approved: June 25, 2013

Request from: Travis R. English (Travis.R.English@kp.org), Kaiser Permanente, 4175 E La-Palma Ave, Suite 200, Anaheim, CA 92882.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008, Section 7.1.1b and Table 7-1, regarding ventilation rates for Examination rooms.

Background: Please refer to part two of a standard Infection Control Risk Assessment Matrix of Precautions for Construction and Renovation available as a resource on the ASHE website at:

<http://www.ashe.org/advocacy/organizations/CDC/>

An exam room in a hospital emergency room, designed to FGI Guidelines Section 2.1-3.2, Common Elements for Hospitals, Examination / Treatment Room or Area, would be considered a “Highest Risk” space on an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA). The ventilation requirement for this space is line 51 of Table 7-1 in Standard 170, “Examination Room”.

An exam room in an Ambulatory Care Podiatry Clinic, designed to FGI Section 3.1-3.2, Common Elements for Outpatient Facilities, Examination and Treatment Room, would be considered a “Highest Risk” space on an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA). The ventilation requirement for this space is line 51 of Table 7.1, “Examination Room”.

Interpretation: It the intent of Standard 170 that these two areas receive the same prescriptive ventilation treatment, regardless of the difference in infection control risk.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes, the Standard requires the same ventilation provisions for both rooms.

Comments: We believe you intended for the exam room in Podiatry to be considered “Lower Risk”; and evaluated your request based on “Lower Risk”. The committee intends to evaluate ramifications of your query in future discussions.