

**Interpretation IC 170-2013-10 of  
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013  
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

Date Approved: May 6, 2016

**Request from:** Walker Calderwood, Cx Associates, 110 Main St. Studio 1B, Burlington, VT 05401.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013, Section 6.4 and Table 6.4, regarding the filter minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) and position for air handlers serving more than one space designation type.

**Background:** It is not clear from the text in Standard 170 what drives the filter requirements in Table 6.4. If an air handling system serves an inpatient care, treatment, and diagnosis space designation as well as a laboratory space designation there are different MERV requirements for filter bank number 1 and filter bank number 2 for each space designation type.

Table 6.4 requires a MERV 7 filter in filter bank number 1 and a MERV 14 filter in filter bank number 2 for an inpatient care, treatment, and diagnosis space designation. For a laboratory space designation a MERV 13 filter is required in filter bank number 1 and there is no requirement for a filter bank number 2.

**Interpretation No.1:** If a single air handling system serves an inpatient care, treatment, and diagnosis space designation as well as a laboratory space designation, using a MERV 7 filter in filter bank number 1 and a MERV 14 filter in filter bank number 2 will meet the requirements.

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

**Answer No.1:** Yes.

**Interpretation No.2:** If a single air handling system serves an inpatient care, treatment, and diagnosis space designation as well as a laboratory space designation, using a MERV 14 filter in filter bank number 1 and no filter in filter bank number 2 will meet the requirements.

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

**Answer No.2:** No.

**Comments:** The intent is that the filtration provided meets the most stringent requirement of all spaces served.