

**Interpretation IC 170-2013-4 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

Date Approved: January 27, 2015

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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013, Table 7.1, regarding pressure relationship to adjacent areas for Central Medical and Surgical Supply spaces.

Background: Table 7.1 under Central Medical and Surgical Supply and its three sub-categories (rooms) of Soiled or Decontamination Room (Negative), Clean Workroom (Positive) and Sterile Storage (Positive) provide clear direction relative to the Pressure Relationship to Adjacent Areas. The 2014 FGI adds a new room type, "sterile processing room." This is found in two sections of the FGI: 2.2-3.3.6.13 Sterile Processing Room (Hospital) and 3.7-3.6.13 Sterile Processing Room (ASF). The FGI allows some level of decontamination and sterilization in a single room of indeterminate size and shape/configuration. It is not clear what ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170's direction is relative to the Pressure Relationship to Adjacent Areas for this new room type. Additional Background from FGI for their guideline on Sterile Processing in the Surgical Suite is available (5 pages - FGI *Guidelines* Update #4 dated September 15, 2014).

Interpretation: Given that there is no direct category within Table 7.1 of Standard 170 to address this new room type my interpretation is as follows; Provide Positive Pressure in this room, provide SA at the most clean part of room, verify neutral relationship to any direct openings to OR's. Also provide continuous exhaust at the most dirty part of the room while maintaining Positive pressure to all adjacent spaces except direct openings to the OR.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: No.

Comments: Based on FGI's Interpretation of the space use, dated November 6, 2014 (available at http://fgiguidelines.org/pdfs/FGI-interps_2014Guidelines_141222.pdf), procedural and layout requirements are sufficient to control any likely cross-contamination between the clean and dirty processes in this space. The air distribution and pressure relationship requirements above are not necessary. The space may be treated as a sub-sterile service area, as indicated in Table 7.1.