

**Interpretation IC 170-2017-13 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

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Request from: Dan Nesman, I.C. Thomasson Associates, Inc., 3031 N. Rocky Point Drive W., Suite 750, Tampa, FL 33607.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017, Section 8 and Table 8.1, regarding vacuum pump room ventilation.

Background: Vacuum is covered under medical gases per NFPA 99. A medical/anesthesia gas storage room must have negative pressure relationship to adjacent areas, cannot have air recirculated by a room unit, and must have all room air exhausted directly to outdoors. A local official appears to consider a vacuum pump room the same as a medical gas storage room having to comply with Table 8.1 with all air exhausted. Or may a vacuum pump room be served by a recirculating unit?

Interpretation: A vacuum pump room must be under negative pressure, cannot have air recirculated by a room unit and all air exhausted directly to outdoors.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: No.

Comments: The room described is not storing medical or anesthetizing gases, under Standard 170 the function of the space is not a medical/anesthetizing storage room.