

**Interpretation IC 170-2017-9 of  
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017  
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

Date Approved: February 4, 2020

**Request from:** Pavel Likhonin, Dewberry, 2610 Wycliff Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017, Section 7.4.1a and Note o to Table 7.1, regarding operating room maximum velocity of diffuser.

**Background:** Section 7.4.1a specifies an average diffuser velocity (for a primary supply diffuser array) between 25 to 35 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup>. Is 35 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> the maximum allowed average? Table 7.1 Note o allows the designer to exceed the minimum indicated ranges and distribution methods.

**Interpretation:** 35 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> is not the maximum velocity for a primary supply diffuser array, and the designer is allowed to increase that velocity above the minimum requirement.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** No

**Comments:** Air distribution methods are a function of how air is delivered. Volumetric flow and air velocity are an integral part of the air distribution system regardless of the method.