

**Interpretation IC 170-2021-9 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2021
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

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Request from: Mark Godfrey (Mark.godfrey@hhchealth.org), Hartford Healthcare, 85 Seymour Street, Suite 227, Hartford, CT 06106. (Phone: 203-909-4094)

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2021, Sections 7.5.2 and 8.5.2 and Table 7-1, regarding bronchoscopy procedure rooms.

Background: The bronchoscopy suite or procedural area where bronchoscopy is routinely performed should be negative pressure according to Section 7.5.2 and Table 7-1. The procedure of bronchoscopy as well as other aerosol generating procedures are performed for patients not diagnosed with or under suspicion for airborne-transmittable infections in other clinical areas such as operating rooms or intensive care unit rooms which are not negative pressure or airborne infection isolation (AII) rooms.

Interpretation: It is the requirement of Standard 170-2021 that bronchoscopy as a procedure shall be performed only in negative pressure areas.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: No.

Comments: ASHRAE 170 defines ventilation system requirements that provide environmental control in health care facilities. The infection control risk assessment and the operational plan established during design of a space in a health care facility determine its clinical functionality. The standard does not indicate how health care spaces are used operationally.