ASHRAE's New Standard 241 Control of Infectious Aerosols

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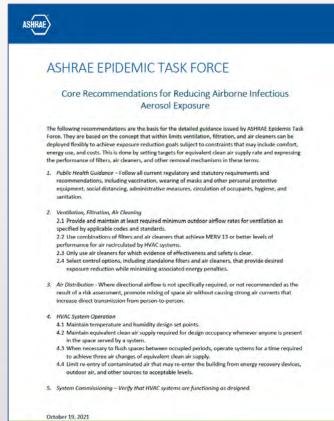


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Why develop a standard for airborne infection risk mitigation?

- Airborne transmission of infections can be important
- Indoor environment contributes to risk
- Current IAQ standards don't address it
- Complete and codify ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force
 guidance
- Not clear that 62.1/62.2 will change to incorporate it
- The White House asked for it...



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- Late 2021 White House Covid Response Team recognizes importance of buildings, begins interacting with ASHRAE and others
- Mar 2022 White House "Clean Air in Buildings Challenge"
- Q2-Q4 2022 Discussions about need for national model IAQ codes
- Sep 2022 Johns Hopkins workshop "A National Strategy for Improving Indoor Air Quality"
- Oct 2022 White House "Summit on Indoor Air Quality"

From the Johns Hopkins workshop, Sept. 2022

- Incentives have their place, but standards and codes • do the heavy lifting
- Support for energy conservation provides a model for improving IAQ
- Energy conservation will probably remain the higher • priority, but must not be allowed to drive bad decisions about IAO
- Standards have limited impact if not adopted into code
- National model IAQ standards can promote both • standard evolution and changes to codes

Raising the Bar -The Importance of Minimum Standards and Codes

7/31/2023

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Chronology (cont'd)

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- Nov 2022 White House asks ASHRAE to develop a "national pathogen control" standard ASAP, preferably by end of US Covid restrictions on May 11
- Dec. 6, 2022 ASHRAE Board commits to developing a consensus, non-ANSI standard in six months (by June 2023)
- Dec 2022 call for members
- Jan 2023 roster and title/purpose/scope approved at winter meeting
- Feb 28, 2023 first meeting of project committee (start the clock...)
- May 11, 2023 public review draft approved by project committee (73 days)
- June 15, 2023 recommendation to publish by project committee (108 days)
- June 24, 2023 ASHRAE approves Standard 241 for publication at annual meeting (116 days)



Dr. Ashish Jha – former Coordinator, White House COVID-19 Response Team

"(T) his effort to try to improve indoor air quality, reduce the burden of respiratory pathogens - yes, it's been something we have been talking about at the White House - yes, a lot of experts have been talking about it. Talking is good. Talking is important, but what ASHRAE did over the last six months in building out the standards, the 241 standards, that just got approved on Saturday, fundamentally changes the game.

It is one of the most important public health interventions I have seen in years, if not decades."

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Purpose and scope

Purpose

- Establish minimum requirements for control of *infectious aerosols* to reduce risk of disease transmission in occupiable space of new and existing buildings and major renovations (non-residential, residential, health care)
- Outdoor air systems, *air cleaning* systems
 - Design
 - Installation
 - Commissioning
 - Operation
 - Maintenance
- Specify *equivalent clean airflow* to be provided in *infection risk management mode*

Scope

- Does NOT establish overall requirements for acceptable indoor air quality
- Addresses long range transmission, i.e., outside close proximity to an infector

STANDARD	ASHRAE
	ASHRAE Standard 241-2023
	Control
	of Infectious
	Aerosols
Committee has established a documented program timely, documented, consensus action on requests	a Standing Standard Project Committee (SSPC) for which the Standa n for regular publication of addenda or revisions, including procedures for change to any part of the Standard. Instructions for how to subm
This Standard is under continuous maintenance by Committee has established a documented program timely, documented, consensus action on requests change can be found on the ASHRAE [®] website (w The latest edition of an ASHRAE Standard may ASHRAE Customer Service, 180 Technology Par-	a Sanding Standard Project Committee (SSPC) for which the Standar for negular publication of addenda or revisions, including procedures for change to any part of the Standard, Instructions for how to subn www.adhrae.org/continuous-maintenance). be purchased from the ASHRAE website (www.ashrae.org) or fi fway, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092. E-mail: orders@ashrae.org)
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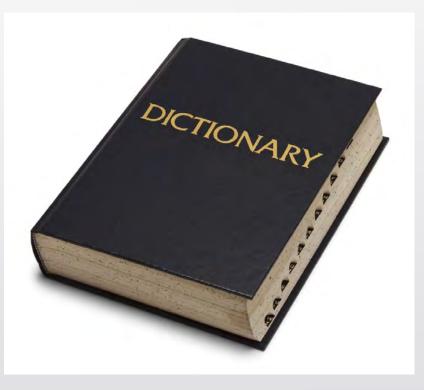
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Main topics

- Definitions
- Prerequisites
- Equivalent clean airflow for infection risk mitigation
- Air distribution and natural ventilation
- Air cleaning
- Assessment, planning , implementation
- Operations and maintenance
- Additional requirements for dwelling units
- Normative and informative appendices

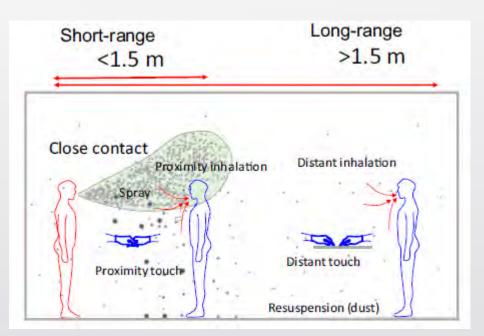
Key definitions

- Infectious aerosol
- Air cleaning
- Long-range transmission
- Infection risk management mode (IRMM)
- Building readiness plan (BRP)
- Equivalent clean airflow (ECA)



Long-range transmission

- Transmission by exposure to infectious aerosol not in close proximity to an infector
- Basis for risk assessment
- Focus on long-range does not mean there is no effect on shortrange

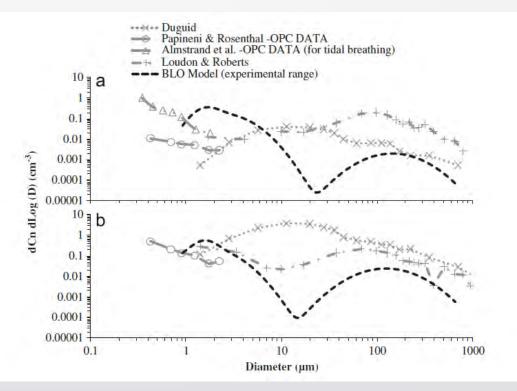


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Li, Y. 2020. Indoor Air. DOI: 10.1111/ina.12786

Infectious aerosol

- Airborne particles containing active pathogens capable of causing infection
- Size, emission rate determined by respiratory activity, not pathogen size



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Johnson, et al. 2011. Modality of human expired aerosol size distributions. Journal of Aerosol Science 42:839-851.

Air Cleaning

- Reducing infectious aerosol concentration
 through capture and removal or inactivation
- Air cleaning technologies
 - Mechanical filters (including electret media)
 - Germicidal ultraviolet light
 - Reactive species ionizers, photocatalytic oxidation, other oxidants
- Mention of specific technologies in the standard is not endorsement!



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Infection Risk Management Mode (IRMM)

- The mode of operation in which measures to reduce infectious aerosol exposure documented in a building readiness plan are active
- Someone must decide when IRMM is needed
 - Public health official
 - Owner
 - Occupant
- Why not all the time?
 - Additional energy use and cost may be incurred during IRMM
 - Infection risk and consequences of infection vary over a wide range
- An example maybe the first of resilience applied to IAQ

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Building Readiness Plan (BRP)

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- A plan that documents the engineering and non-engineering controls that facility systems will use for the facility to achieve its goals
- Summarizes results of assessment and planning exercises and documents measures to be implemented in IRMM
- Direct descendant of ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force guidance

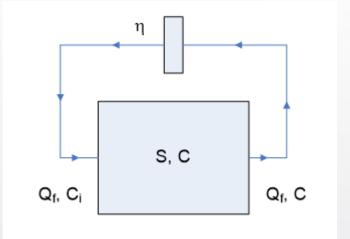
7/31/2023 Equivalent Clean Airflow (ECA)

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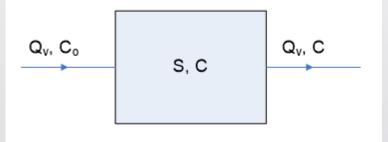
- The flow rate of pathogen-free air that, if distributed uniformly within the breathing zone, would have the same effect on infectious aerosol concentration as the sum of actual outdoor airflow, filtered airflow, and inactivation of infectious aerosols
- Concept on which the entire standard depends
 - Determine ECA for infection risk mitigation (ECAi)
 - Determine total flow rate for spaces, systems (V_{FCAi}) ٠
 - Figure out how to achieve it during IRMM ٠

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Filtration of recirculated air with efficiency " η " at flow rate " Q_f " controlling source "S" to achieve concentration "C"



For an equivalent dilution process with uncontaminated air: $Q_v = \eta Q_f$

Multiple sources of ECA can be added to determine the total for a space or system

25th Westford Symposium on Building Science 7/31/2023 17 Prerequisites

- Standard 241 is only addresses infection risk does not replace exisiting standards for acceptable indoor air quality
- A facility must comply with the applicable version of standard (ASHRAE 62.1, 62.2, 170 or other approved by the authority having jurisdiction) as determined by its occupancy and date of construction or major renovation
- Prerequisite standards set minimum requirements of outdoor air and filtration for normal operation

ECA requirements are based on risk assessment

- Many decisions to make
 - Absolute or relative risk
 - Acceptable risk level
 - Infector number and emission rate, infectious dose
 - Exposure time
 - Susceptible number and activity level
 - Removal/inactivation mechanisms
 - Engineering controls
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Natural loss decay, deposition

- Probabilistic approach is needed
 - Most factors are distributed (not single valued)

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- Some factors vary over orders of magnitude
- What is the most appropriate unit?
 - ECA per person?
 - ECA per infector?
 - ACH of ECA?
 - ???

Wells-Riley model of infection risk

 $P = \frac{N_I}{N_S} = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{Iqpt}{Q}\right)$

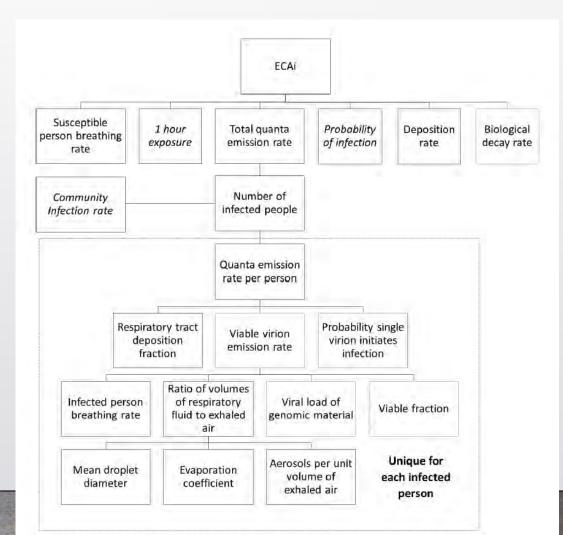
$$P \approx \frac{Iqpt}{Q} \text{ for small } \frac{Iqpt}{Q}$$

$$P \approx \frac{\left(N_{s}R_{c}\right)qpt}{Q} \propto \frac{1}{Q/N_{s}}$$

- P = probability of a susceptible person becoming infected []
- N_1 = number of new infections
- N_{S} = number of susceptible persons
- R_{C} = community infection rate []
- I = number of infectors
- q = quanta (infectious dose) emission rate [1/hr]
- p = pulmonary ventilation rate per susceptible [m³/h]
- t = exposure time [hr]
- Q = equivalent clean airflow $[m^3/h]$
- If rate of infection in the population is considered, personal risk depends on the equivalent clean air flow rate per person
- Air change rate is not directly relevant!

Risk assumptions in Standard 241

- Wells-Riley model
- Number of infectors a function of community infection rate
- Roughly equal risk, low per hour regardless
 of space type
- Natural loss factors considered
- Probabilistic analysis using distributed variables
- Requirements given in ECA per person for infection risk mitigation (ECAi)



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Calculation of required ECA (V_{ECAi}) or maximum IRMM occupancy

 ECAi and number of occupants, P_{Z, IRMM} determine requirement for a given zone, V_{ECAi}

 $V_{ECAi} = ECAi \times P_{Z,IRMM}$

- P_{Z, IRMM} can be different from design occupancy
- Available V_{ECAi} and ECAi can determine maximum number of occupants in IRMM

$$P_{Z,IRMM} = V_{ECAi} / ECAi$$

• Current coverage includes 25 space types in 7 occupancy categories, 20-90 cfm/pers

Table 5-1 Minimum Equivalent Clean Airflow per Person in Breathing Zone in IRMM

S	ECAi			
Occupancy Category	cfm/person	L/s/person		
Correctional Facilities				
Cell	30	15		
Dayroom	40	20		
Commercial/Retail				
Food and beverage facilities	60	30		
Gym	80	40		
Office	30	15		
Retail	40	20		
Transportation waiting	60	30		
Educational Facilities				
Classroom	40	20		
Lecture hall	50	25		
Industrial				
Manufacturing	50	25		
Sorting, packing, light assembly	20	10		
Warehouse	20	10		
Health Care				
Exam room	40	20		
Group treatment area	70	35		
Datient room	70	24		

Values doubled for loud vocalization

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Comparing standard 62.1 outdoor air and ECAi

- ECAi rates are much higher than 62.1 rates
- Constant risk ECAi values give very different ACH values for different space types

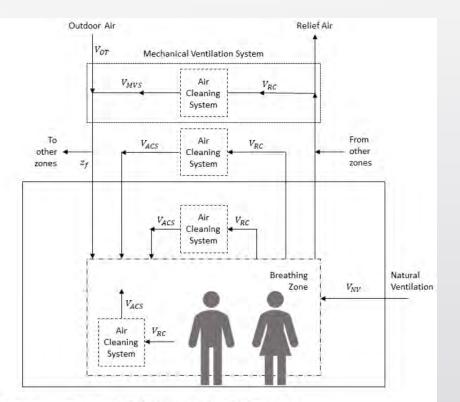
ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1 VRP inputs

	R _P [cfm/pers]	R _A [cfm/ft²]	Occupant Density [#/1000 ft ²]
Office	5	0.06	5
Classroom	10	0.12	35
Restaurant	7.5	0.18	70

	ASHRAE 62.1 Default [cfm/pers]	ASHRAE 241 ECAi [cfm/pers]	ASHRAE 241 ACH with 8' ceiling
Office	17	30	1.1
Classroom	13	40	10.5
Restaurant	10	60	31.5

Meeting the equivalent clean air target

- V_{ECAi} requirement can be met by
 - Outdoor airflow mechanical/natural
 - ECA from multizone air cleaning systems
 - ECA from in-room air cleaning systems
- Approach allows maximum flexibility to user
- Limitations on compliance
 - Must have prerequisite minimum outdoor air
 - To receive credit toward meeting requirements, mechanical filters must be MERV-A 11 or higher (MERV 11 acceptable until 1/1/2025) or equivalent



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Figure 6-1 Sources of outdoor and clean air (for V_{RC}, see Section 7).

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Air distribution and natural ventilation

- Important but difficult topic, mostly for future development
- Classifies air cleaning system location (floor, wall, ceiling) and air discharge (up, down, horizontal, none) and limits some combinations based on room air distribution type (e.g., downflow air cleaner discharge with upflow air distribution)
- Mainly references ASHRAE Standard 62.1 for natural and mixed-mode ventilation requirements
- Does not yet address ventilation/contaminant removal effectiveness

Air cleaning system effectiveness and safety

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- Lack of information and standards related to air cleaning systems was a major problem during the Covid pandemic
- Effectiveness ability to remove or inactivate infectious aerosols
- Safety adverse effects direct exposure (UV-C, oxidants), secondary contaminants (particles, ozone)
- Standard 241 establishes minimum requirements for effectiveness and safety testing

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Air cleaning system testing

- Standard 241 does not recommend or rank technologies
- Goal is to establish a level playing field to enable use of effective, safe technologies
- Existing methods of test are referenced when available (ASHRAE 52.2, ASHRAE 185.1, AHAM AC-1, AHAM AC-5)
- Normative Appendix A provides procedures when a standard is not available

Air cleaning systems are classified generically

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- In-Duct Air Cleaning Systems that Clean Air in the Air-Handling Unit, Ductwork, or Plenum
- In-Duct Air Cleaning Systems that Clean Air in the Occupied Zone
- In-Room Air Cleaning Systems
- Mechanical Fibrous Air Cleaning Systems.
- Air Cleaning Systems that Inactivate Infectious Aerosols (additional requirements)

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Estimated efficiencies are provided for mechanical filters rated by ASHRAE Standard 52.2

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2 MERV (Prior to 1/1/2025) MERV-A (After 1/1/2025)	ISO 16890 ePM	Weighted ε _{PF}
<11		0%
11	ePM2.5 50%	60%
12	ePM2.5 65%	71%
13	ePM1 50%	77%
14	ePM1 70%	88%
15	ePM1 85%	91%
16	ePM1 95%	95%
HEPA ^a	ISO 20E ^b	99%

Table 7-1 Infectious Aerosol Removal Efficiency (EPR) for Mechanical Fibrous Filters

b. Tested in accordance with ISO 29463⁷.

here for completeness.

Based on filter efficiency curve and distribution of infections aerosol by particle size

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Efficiency is calculated if an air cleaner is rated using AHAM AC-1

- AHAM AC-1 determines Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) for smoke (CADR_s), dust(CADR_d), pollen(CADR_p)
- Standard 241 ECA is a weighted average 30% smoke, 30% dust, 40% pollen

$$V_{ACS} = 0.3 \cdot CADR_s + 0.3 \cdot CADR_d + 0.4 \cdot CADR_p$$

Air cleaning system safety

- Chemicals emitted by air cleaning systems or created by chemical reactions in air
 - Ozone
 - Formaldehyde
 - Particles
- Fan noise (reported only)
- UV-C in occupied space





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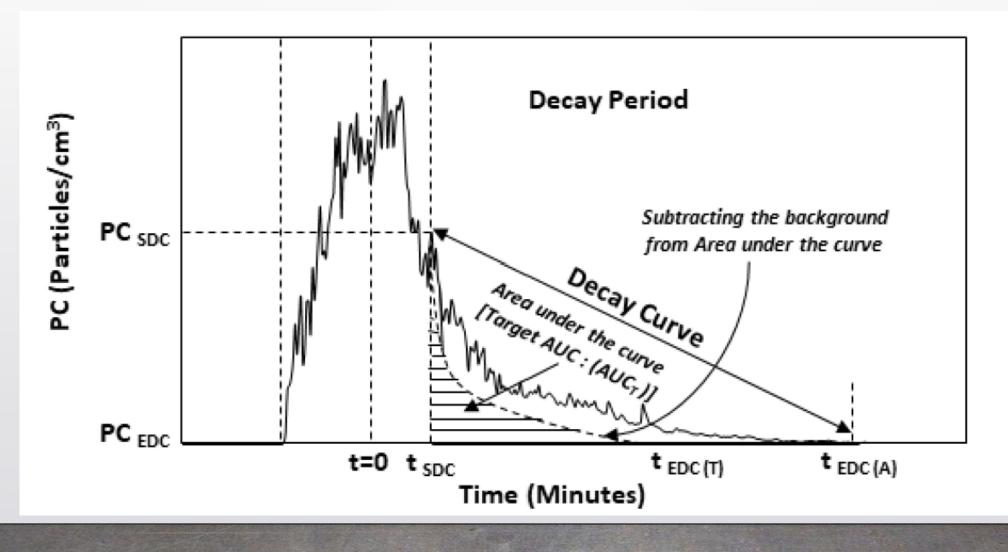
Assessment, Planning, and Implementation

- Builds on ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force Building Readiness guidance
- Applies commissioning practices to infection risk mitigation systems
- Requirements for developing the Building Readiness Plan
- Assessment of existing V_{ECAi} to determine need for additional controls
- Supporting information
 - Tracer particle test procedure for determining V_{ECAi} in-place
 - Checklists for assessment and commissioning (appendix)
 - Building Readiness Plan template (appendix)
 - Equivalent outdoor air calculator (downloadable at ashrae.org/241-2023)
 - Guidance on assessing energy recovery ventilators (downloadable)
 - Guidance on preventing re-entry of contaminated air

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Tracer particle test to determine in-place V_{ECAi}



Building Readiness Plan Template

BUILDING READINESS ASSESSMENT Date Conducted			Office Bui	lding y, State		
This is a sample Building Readiness Assessment worksheet prepared in September 2020 based on initial ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force Guidance. A similar worksheet, aligned with the requirements of Standard 241 Section 8.2.1 Existing Building Assessment, will be created by the Standard Project Committee. The requirements and recommendations listed below are NOT for compliance with Standard 241.						
Building Readiness Tasks	Level	Status	Details	Ref.		
Ventilation						
Provide as much outside air as the HVAC system can accommodate while maintaining acceptable Indoor conditions.	Baseline	In Place	Ventilation system provides outdoor air at its maximum capacity of 27 cfm/person (based on ASHRAE default occupant density), greater than 62.1 minimum standard.	1,2		
Disable demand-controlled ventilation.	Baseline	In Place	OA VAV boxes are providing maximum airflow; return air CO2 sensors are not being used to reduce airflow.	1		
Limit occupancy in areas with inadequate ventilation.	Baseline	N/A		1		
Assess Energy Recovery Ventilation systems for cross-contamination and adjust airflows as necessary.	Baseline	TBD	OAHU heat wheel seals have been inspected for wear; unit does not have a purge section. Confirm pressures higher on supply side relative to exhaust side.	2, 3		
Ensure outdoor air intake has sufficient separation distance from contaminant sources (cooling tower, exhaust fan, pedestrian walkway, etc.).	Baseline	In Place		1		
Filtration						
Use at least MERV-13 filters in all recirculating systems.	Baseline	In Place	Filters upgraded from MERV-13 to MERV-15.	1, 2, 4		
Ensure good seal on filters (tape, gasket, sizing, etc.).	Baseline	in Place	Filters are taped at seams to minimize bypass of unfiltered air.	1, 2, 4		
Use in-room HEPA filters in areas with limited system filtration capabilities.	Enhanced	Consider	Consider installing in-room HEPA filters in densely occupied spaces or spaces with higher risk activities; devices should produce no ozone.	1, 2, 4		
Pressurization and Exhaust						
Receive neuricalficant building processination incluse	Posalina	N/A		1 1		

Equivalent Clean Air Calculator

1	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
1		Assessment	Planning	Planning	Planning	Planning	Implement
2	Units	EXISTING	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	FINAL SYSTEM
3		AHU with X,Y,Z	Description	Description	Description	Description	Description
4	Туре	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
5	CFM / Person	30	30	30	30	30	40.0
6	Sq Ft	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,400
7	Ft	9	9	9	9	9	9
8	Cu Ft	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	21600
9	CFM	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1800
10	CFM	240	240	240	240	240	272
11	Quantity	12	12	12	12	12	12
12	Quantity	8	8	8	8	8	12
13	CFM	360	360	360	360	360	480
14	CFM	240	240	240	240	240	480
15	MERV	12	13	13	13	13	13
16	241 or DNFE		241				241
	εPR	71.0%	77.0%	67.0%	77.0%	77.0%	77.0%
18	%	0.0%	35.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
19	CFM	400	100	0	0	0	0
20	CADR	0	4	0	0	0	0
21	Quantity	0	1	0	0	0	0
22	CFM	0	150	0	200	0	200
23	Quantity	0	2	0	1	0	1
24	CADR	0	300	0	0	0	0
25	Quantity	0	3	0	0	0	0
26							
	CFM	240.0	240.0	240.0	240.0	240.0	272.0
	CFM	1107.6	1201.2	1045.2	1201.2	1201.2	1176.6
	CFM	0	126	257	0	0	0
	CFM	400	100	0	0	0	0
	CFM	0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	CFM	0	300.0	0.0	200.0	0.0	200.0
33	CFM	0	900.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	CFM	1748	2871	1543	1641	1441	1649
35	Method	IRMM	IRMM	IRMM	IRMM	IRMM	IRMM
36	CFM / person	218.5	358.8	192.8	205.2	180.2	137.4
37	Pass / Fail	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
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Operations

- BRP on site, accessible, current
- Essential supplies stocked
- Operating modes defined:
 - Normal occupied/unoccupied
 - IRMM occupied/unoccupied
 - Temporary shutdown
- Temperature and humidity maintain design set points when occupied

- Operating schedules
 - On for all occupied hours
 - No on-off control of HVAC fans

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- Flushing not required between occupancy periods
- Operator training
- Occupant communication

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- Adapted from requirements in ASHRAE/ACCA Standard 180
- Frequency of some activities is increased during IRMM, e.g., check air handler outdoor air flow annually in IRMM vs. every 5 years per 62.1
- Items specific to infection controls have been added

Table 9-2 Minimum Maintenance Activity and Frequency for Additional Engineering Controlsand Associated Components While in Use

Engineering Control	Inspection/Maintenance Task	Frequency
In-room air cleaners	Verify unit is in appropriate location and operating as intended per the <i>BRP</i> . Confirm that the air cleaner is operating at the speed or setting assumed in the V_{ECAi} calculation.	Monthly
	Maintain systems and equipment and verify performance per manufacturer's instructions.	
	Visually inspect intake for debris and clean as necessary.	
Ultraviolet (UV) germicidal irradiation	Maintain systems and verify performance and safety per manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with ANSI/IES RP-44- 21 ¹¹ and ANSI/IES RP-27.1.22 ²⁰ or equivalent. Adjust, clean, and replace equipment as needed.	Assess quarterly or per manufacturer's recommended interval
All air cleaning systems and equipment (including in-room, in-duct, and UV	Maintain systems and equipment and verify performance per manufacturer's instructions. Adjust, clean, and replace equipment as needed.	Assess quarterly or per manufacturer's recommended
air cleaners)	If equipment cannot be repaired, remove equipment from service and use a substitute engineering control to maintain V_{ECAi} in occupied space.	interval
Separation space	The designated temporary separation areas shall be tested for negative pressure whenever an infected individual is present.	As used

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Additional requirements for dwelling units

- Lids on toilets
- Water in plumbing traps
- HVAC systems serving multiple units block flow to units with vulnerable or infected occupants
- Fully enclosed separation area for infected occupants, health-care patient room V_{ECAi} (70 cfm/pers)
- Health-care patient room V_{ECAi} in dwelling unit with vulnerable occupants

Future

- Communication publications, presentations, web page
- Pilot testing
- ANSI certification
- Referencing in ASHRAE 62.1/62.2
- Adoption in code

- Continuous maintenance
 - Performance path
 - Energy use requirements
 - Add more space types
 - Expand air distribution content

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 Update air cleaner testing requirements to reference new standards 25th Westford Symposium on Building Science

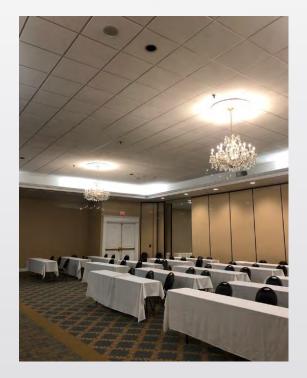
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Applying ASHRAE Standard 241-2023 to the Westford Regency Ballroom

Data and assumptions - space

- Floor area: 6,380 ft² (110' x 58')
- Volume: 80,004 ft³
- Design occupancy: 464 (per owner)
- ASHRAE 62.1
 - $R_p = 5 \text{ cfm/pers}$
 - $R_a = 0.06 \text{ cfm} / \text{ft}^2$
 - V_{bz} = 2,702 cfm



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Data and assumptions - HVAC

- Three rooftop units
- MERV 13 filters (77% efficient)
- Total airflows
 - Supply air: 14,400 cfm (estimate)
 - Outdoor air: 2,880 cfm (complies with ASHRAE 62.1)
 - Recirculated air: 11,520 cfm



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Equivalent clean airflow analysis

- ASHRAE Standard 241 requirement, design occupancy
 - Auditorium ECAi: 50 cfm/pers
 - Total required, 464 occupants: 23,200 cfm
- Existing V_{ECAi}
 - Outdoor air: 2,880 cfm
 - Filtered recirculated air: 8,870 cfm (11,520 cfm \times 0.77)
 - Total: 11,750 cfm
- Additional V_{ECAi} needed for full occupancy: 23,200 11,750 = 11,450 cfm
- Maximum occupancy without modifications: 11,750/50 = 235

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Options for getting an additional 11,450 cfm of equivalent clean airflow

- 100% outdoor air (14,400 cfm)
 - Not enough, and it eliminates filtration of recirculated air
 - Eliminates effect of filtration (no recirculation)
- Increase filter efficiency further
 - HEPA only adds 2,650 cfm, also brings total to 14,400 cfm
- In room air cleaners large, or lots of them, ~0.1 W/cfm, so >1 kW fan power at full occupancy
- Upper room germicidal UV(254 nm)

Typical sizing for upper room germicidal UV

- ASHRAE Guideline 37 (under development)
 - 0.012 W/m³ UV power for 20 ACH ECA against tuberculosis (1/10th susceptibility of SARS-CoV-2)
- Dosing volume: 63,800 ft³ = 1,807 m³
- Total UV output power: 21.7 W
- Input power to fixtures: 24 W with three open fixtures
- V_{ECAi, GUV} ≅ 25,000 cfm, > 2X what's needed could downsize significantly



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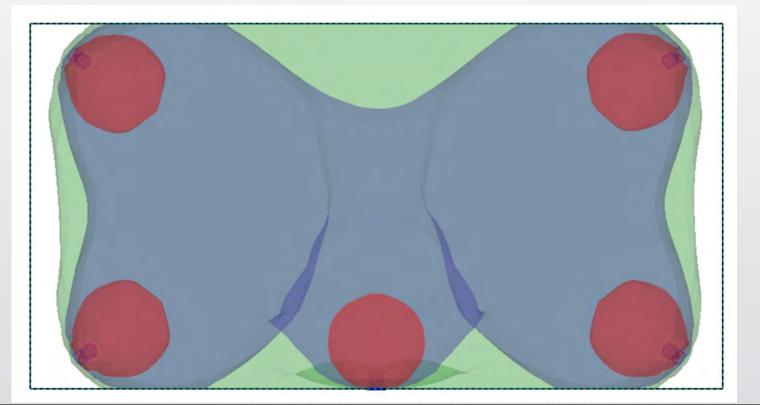
45



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The 5 temporary fixtures in use here greatly exceed the ASHRAE 241 requirement



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Thank you!

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