

**Interpretation IC 170-2008-12 of  
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008  
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

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**Request from:** Brian Flynn ([bflynn@zfengr.com](mailto:bflynn@zfengr.com)), ZF Consulting, 57 West Ave., Wayne, PA 19087.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008, Table 7-1, regarding air recirculation by means of room unit.

**Background:** Note (a) of Table 7-1 states:

Recirculating room HVAC units (with heating or cooling coils) are acceptable to achieve the required air change rates. Because of the cleaning difficulty and the potential for buildup of contamination, recirculating room units shall not be used in areas marked “No.” Isolation and intensive care unit rooms may be ventilated by reheat induction units in which only the primary air supplied from a central system passes through the reheat unit. Gravity-type heating or cooling units, such as radiators or convectors, shall not be used in operating rooms and other special care areas.

**Interpretation:** It is our interpretation that a recirculating room HVAC unit refers to a unit that is physically mounted in the space and that includes a coil; such as fan coil units, heat pumps, and induction units. It does not refer to a fan, which is mounted in the mechanical space above the room and that supplies air through a HEPA filter ceiling grid.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Comments:** The project committee, in agreeing with this interpretation of the 2008 Standard, reminds users of the standard that this interpretation does not alter any requirement of the current standard.