

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **JAN 26 2011**

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

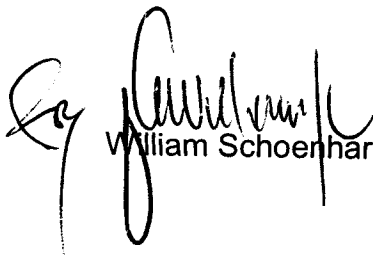
Subj: Interim Guidance for Ventilation Requirements in Sterile Processing Department, SPD (formerly Supply, Processing and Distribution)

To: Network Directors (10N1-23)

1. This memorandum serves as interim guidance for ventilation requirements in Sterile Processing Departments pending the release of a formal directive.
2. The following are the minimum number of air exchanges per hour (ACH) based on the functional area and the Design Temperature for existing buildings:
 - a. Soiled / decontamination
 - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 6 (Temp 72 – 78 F)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
 - b. Sterilizer Equipment Access Room
 - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
 - c. Restrooms / Housekeeping
 - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
 - d. Preparation, Assembly, Sterilization Area
 - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (72 – 78 F)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
 - e. Clean / Sterile Storage
 - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (Temp 72 – 78 F)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
3. The following are the minimum number of air exchanges per hour (ACH) based on the functional area and the Design Temperature for new construction and renovations involving replacement of HVAC systems
 - a. Soiled / decontamination
 - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 6 (Temp 72 +/- 1 F)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%

Interim Guidance for Ventilation Requirements in Sterile Processing Department,
SPD (formerly Supply, Processing and Distribution)

- b. Sterilizer Equipment Access Room
 - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
 - c. Restrooms / Housekeeping
 - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
 - d. Preparation, Assembly, Sterilization Area
 - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (72 +/- 1 F)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
 - e. Clean / Sterile Storage
 - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
 - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (Temp 72 +/- 1 F)
 - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
4. Effective immediately all references in VA Handbook 7176 dealing with ventilation are superseded.
5. All new construction and HVAC renovations should comply with the design parameters identified above which meet or exceed those set forth in ANSI / ASHRAE / ASHE Standard 170 – 2008 or the current version, Ventilation of Health Care Facilities and should comply with the VA SPD Design Guide.
6. This memorandum remains in effect until December 31, 2011 or until the appropriate directive is published, whichever comes first.
7. The Point of Contact for questions is Ms. Rosie Fardo, RN, (513-487-6001), rosanna.fardo@va.gov.


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