INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2019-6 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2019
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2019, Section 6.5.2, regarding the application of Section 6.5.2 to hospital zones.

Background: In some US markets, it is still common to design hospital terminal reheat zones as constant-air volume, where the air quantity is selected based on the maximum hour of need (typically a summer cooling load).

Section 6.5.2 might be read to prohibit constant volume reheating zones; though Exceptions 1 and 2 allow them if the volume of air reheated is minimized. Exception 1.d and 2.d. indicate that the minimum air (if it not governed by Standard 62.1) should be the minimum needed to meet an *applicable code or accreditation standard.*

Compliance to 6.5.2, then, would seem to **require** variable volume zones where the maximum air reheated is not larger than that mandated by the *applicable code or accreditation standard.*

Example 1: A patient room is provided with a terminal reheat zone which provides 11 ACH to the room year-round. The applicable accreditation standard requires a minimum of 4 ACH to the room.

Example 1 Interpretation: To meet Section 6.5.2 of ASHRAE 90.1, the terminal reheat zone must be provided with controls that reduce the air volume to 4 ACH prior to re-heating.

Example 2: An Operating Room is provided with a terminal reheat zone which provides 25 ACH to the room year-round. The applicable accreditation standard requires a minimum of 20 ACH to the room.

Example Interpretation: To meet Section 6.5.2 of ASHRAE 90.1, the terminal reheat zone must be provided with controls that reduce the air volume to 20 ACH prior to re-heating.

Interpretation: A terminal reheat zone in a hospital zone where the minimum air volume is **greater than** the minimum required for *applicable code and accreditation* standards **does not comply** to Section 6.5.2.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes