

**Interpretation IC 170-2021-6 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2021
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

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Request from: Dan Nesman, I.C. Thomasson Associates, 3031 N. Rocky Point Drive W., Suite 750, Tampa, FL 33607.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2021, Section 6.3.1.1 and Table 6-1, regarding Air Intake Separation Distance – gas-fired RTU.

Background: According to ASHRAE/ASHE 170 Section 6.3.1.1 there is an exception to Table 6-1 for gas-fired, packaged rooftop units allowing for the separation distance to be less than 25ft and refers to Table 5-1 in ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2019. Table 5-1 indicates that vents, chimneys, and flues from combustion appliances and equipment may have a minimum separation distance of 15 ft. However, Table 5-1 also indicates the minimum distance for Class 4 air to be 30 ft. *Class 4: Air with highly objectionable fumes or gases or with potentially dangerous particles, bioaerosols, or gases, at concentrations high enough to be considered as harmful.* 2019 ASHRAE 62.1 Section 5.5.1b allows for the calculation methods in Normative Appendix B. Note that this calculation has been significantly altered in Addendum ag to 2022 ASHRAE 62.1. Also, 2019 ASHRAE 62.1 Section 5.5.1.2 indicates that minimum distances for fuel-fire appliances shall be as required by NFPA 54. 2018 NFPA 54 8.3.1.3 indicates that outdoor discharge of purged gases must be 25 ft from mechanical air intake openings.

Interpretation: Since the explicit intent of the exception to ASHRAE/ASHE 170 Section 6.3.1.1 is to allow for the separation distance to be less than 25 ft and the specific reference is only Table 5-1 in ASHRAE 62.1-2019, the separation distance of 15 ft is acceptable for gas-fired, packaged rooftop units at hospitals and outpatient facilities.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes, the interpretation is correct.

Comments: The reduced separation distance from 25 feet only applies to the distance from the flue gas discharge and the outdoor air intake of the same unit. The separation distance between any other flue gas discharge and outdoor air intake shall be a minimum of 25 feet.