



# Special requirements for heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems in health care facilities



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# Contents

Technical Committee on Health Care Facilities	6
Subcommittee on Special Requirements for HVAC Systems in Health Care Facilities	9
Preface	11
<b>0 Introduction</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2 Reference publications</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>3 Definitions and abbreviations</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1 Definitions	17
3.2 Abbreviations	22
<b>4 General</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5 General design requirements</b>	<b>25</b>
5.1 General	25
5.2 Ventilation	26
5.3 Infection control	26
5.4 Fire protection and smoke management	26
5.5 Continuity of systems	27
5.6 Monitoring	27
5.7 Energy management and sustainability	27
5.8 Existing systems and equipment	28
<b>6 Detailed design requirements</b>	<b>29</b>
6.1 General	29
6.1.1 Temperature, relative humidity, relative pressurization, and air flow	29
6.1.2 Class of health care facility	29
6.1.3 Heating and cooling design requirements by Class	29
6.1.4 Space	29
6.1.5 Access	30
6.1.6 Replacement	30
6.1.7 Isolation, valves and connections	30
6.1.8 Maintenance	30
6.1.9 Identification of piping and ductwork	30
6.1.10 Surface materials	30
6.1.11 Waterproofing	31
6.1.12 Recirculation flexibility in 100% outside air systems	31
6.2 Heating source	31
6.2.1 General	31
6.2.2 Design load - heating	31
6.2.3 Boilers and other heating units	31
6.2.4 External heating supply	32

6.2.5	Temporary supply	32
6.2.6	Secondary fuel requirements	32
6.2.7	Standby fuel	32
6.2.8	Ancillary equipment for heating units	32
6.2.9	Essential electrical system	33
6.2.10	Chemicals	33
6.2.11	Water supply	33
6.2.12	Parallel steam traps	33
6.3	Cooling source	34
6.3.1	General	34
6.3.2	Design load - cooling	34
6.3.3	Cooling system	34
6.3.4	Maintenance of essential cooling functions	34
6.3.5	Design considerations	35
6.3.6	Ancillary equipment for cooling systems	35
6.3.7	Sizing of cooling sources	36
6.3.8	Cooling towers and cooling condensers	36
6.3.9	Temporary connection	37
6.3.10	Cooling sources	37
6.4	Piped HVAC distribution	38
6.4.1	Piping locations	38
6.4.2	Piping shafts	38
6.4.3	Shut-off valves	38
6.4.4	Supply and return connections	38
6.5	Air handling systems	38
6.5.1	General	38
6.5.2	Requirements for areas of different use	38
6.5.3	Return air systems	39
6.5.4	Minimum operation	39
6.5.5	Variable air volume (VAV) systems	41
6.5.6	Air handling unit redundancy	41
6.5.7	Outdoor air intakes	44
6.6	Air handling units	45
6.6.1	Construction	45
6.6.2	Water removal	45
6.6.3	Ultraviolet disinfection systems	47
6.6.4	Access	47
6.7	Air filtration	48
6.8	Humidification	49
6.8.1	General	49
6.8.2	Chemical treatment	50
6.8.3	Central air handling	50
6.8.4	Humidification controls	50
6.8.5	Duct-mounted humidifiers	51
6.9	Air distribution	51
6.9.1	General	51
6.9.2	Ceiling space	51
6.9.3	Circulation, transfer, and recirculation	52
6.9.4	Duct surfaces	52

6.9.5	Lining of HVAC elements	53
6.9.6	Duct access	53
6.9.7	Duct cleaning	54
6.10	Air separation, air flow, and relative space pressurization	54
6.10.1	General	54
6.10.2	Low-level air separation by means of air flow	55
6.10.3	Medium level air separation	55
6.10.4	Airborne isolation rooms (AIRs), protective environment rooms (PERs), and other special precaution rooms requiring high-level air separation	55
6.10.5	Portable or fixed HEPA filtration units	60
6.11	Room and space requirements	61
6.11.1	General	61
6.11.2	Directional airflow	61
6.11.3	Type I areas	62
6.11.4	Scavenging systems	63
6.11.5	Specialized rooms	63
6.11.6	Mental health facilities	64
6.11.7	Hemodialysis	64
6.11.8	Normally unoccupied service areas	65
6.12	HVAC heating/cooling terminals and local heating/cooling units	65
6.12.1	Access	65
6.12.2	Finned elements	65
6.12.3	Local heating or cooling units	65
6.12.4	Noncentral air handling units	66
6.12.5	Water removal for local cooling and non-central air handling units	66
6.13	Exhaust systems	67
6.13.1	General	67
6.13.2	Alarms	67
6.13.3	Dedicated exhaust	67
6.13.4	Discharge locations	68
6.13.5	Filtration and treatment	68
6.13.6	Nitrous oxide cylinder storage	68
6.13.7	Ethylene oxide exhaust	68
6.13.8	Fans	68
6.14	Controls	68
6.14.1	Individual temperature controls	68
6.14.2	Area humidity controls	69
6.14.3	Essential electrical system	69
6.14.4	Indicators	69
6.15	Smoke management	69
6.15.1	General	69
6.15.2	Special considerations	69
6.15.3	Sleeping rooms	69
6.15.4	Smoke dampers	70
6.15.5	Coordination	70
6.15.6	Smoke management zoning	70
6.15.7	Functionality	70
6.15.8	Testing	70
6.15.9	Priority	70

6.15.10	Sequence	70
6.15.11	Response time	70
6.15.12	Sealing	70
6.16	Catastrophic event management	71
6.16.1	General	71
6.16.2	Air exchange rates	73
6.16.3	Design conditions for heating and cooling	74
6.17	Acoustics and vibration control	77
6.17.1	Acoustics	77
6.17.2	Vibration control	77
6.18	System balancing and adjustments	77
6.18.1	General	77
6.18.2	Airflow	77
6.19	Energy efficiency and sustainability	78
6.19.1	System design	78
6.19.2	Unoccupied periods	78
6.19.3	Energy recovery	78
6.19.4	Free cooling	79
6.19.5	Direct digital controls	79
6.19.6	Environmental aspects	79
6.19.7	Rainwater collection	79
6.19.8	Demand-controlled ventilation	79
6.19.9	Alternative energy	79
6.19.10	Glazing	80
6.19.11	Chillers	80
6.19.12	Kitchens	81
<b>7</b>	<b>Commissioning</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Operation, maintenance, and monitoring</b>	<b>81</b>
8.1	General	81
8.2	Operation and monitoring of HVAC systems and components	82
8.2.1	General	82
8.2.2	Calibration	82
8.2.3	Records	82
8.2.4	HVAC performance	83
8.2.5	Operational monitoring and replacement of filters and seals	83
8.2.6	Fan coils, drain pans, and induction units	85
8.2.7	Fire and smoke dampers	85
8.3	Maintenance of HVAC systems and components	85
8.3.1	General	85
8.3.2	Maintenance and monitoring	86
8.3.3	Consultation	86
8.3.4	Chemical treatment	86
8.3.5	Dust generated during construction, renovations, and maintenance	86
8.3.6	Sustainability	86
8.3.7	Other monitoring activities	86
8.3.8	Duct cleaning	86
8.3.9	Cooling towers	87

8.3.10	Existing systems and equipment	88
8.4	Energy management	88
8.4.1	General	88
8.4.2	Adverse environmental impact analysis	88
8.4.3	Sustainability	88
8.5	Construction, renovation, or maintenance provisions to prevent the spread of infection	88
8.5.1	General	88
8.5.2	Construction air handling units	88
8.6	Continuity of service	88
8.7	Catastrophic events	89

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Annex A (informative)	— Guidelines for HVAC design	121
Annex B (informative)	— Health care facility examples according to class	124
Annex C (normative)	— Condensate trap depth chart	129
Annex D (informative)	— Examples of configurations designed to meet redundancy requirements in Clause <a href="#">6.5.6.1.3</a>	130

# Preface

This is the fifth edition of CSA Z317.2, *Special requirements for heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems in health care facilities*, one of a series of Standards on the design, construction, and maintenance of health care facilities and systems. It supersedes the previous editions, published in 2015, 2010, 2001, and 1991.

This Standard is intended for use by architects, engineers, planners, consultants, and health care facility staff to ensure the efficient planning, design, construction, and maintenance of HVAC systems. In addition to design and construction requirements, this Standard includes commissioning, operational, maintenance, and monitoring requirements for HVAC systems that will reduce the risk of transmission of infection among building occupants, including patients, staff, and visitors. Significant changes in this edition include the following:

- a) clarification of HVAC requirements for rooms and areas used for similar or different functions, including more stringent requirements for areas in a facility used for more than one function;
- b) additional guidance on HCFs providing services when outdoor conditions are extreme and when indoor conditions are outside of the HVAC design ranges;
- c) information on areas with increased activity level potentially requiring a higher air exchange rate to maintain air quality;
- d) enhanced electrical system requirements for control systems during loss of power to ensure continuity of systems;
- e) revisions for HVAC system upgrades associated with renovations or additions;
- f) expansion of requirements for chemical treatment of steam and condensate piping systems;
- g) expansion of requirements for heating and cooling source redundancy;
- h) additional considerations for the placement of outdoor intakes;
- i) clarification for the location of duct-mounted humidifiers;
- j) new provisions for flex ducting;
- k) expanded requirements for audible and visual alarms for AIRs;
- l) clarification on the use of non-aspirating diffusers in Type I areas;
- m) alignment of inhaled anaesthetic and analgesic gas scavenging requirements with CSA Z7396.1;
- n) a new clause on ventilation of normally unoccupied service areas;
- o) clarification on placement of local heating or cooling units and water removal requirements;
- p) guidance on catastrophic HVAC equipment failure in alignment with catastrophic event management in CSA Z8000;
- q) new requirements for HEPA filter testing and performance verification;
- r) clarification that HVAC system operation may be modified or operated in certain situations beyond the ranges specified in Table 1, in consultation with the MDT;
- s) new HVAC design criteria for Whole body storage and Morgue viewing in Table 1;
- t) expansion of HVAC design criteria for Scope reprocessing areas in Table 1;
- u) expansion of HVAC design criteria for Treatment and procedure rooms for patients requiring airborne precautions in Table 1;
- v) updated airflow direction requirements for the Operating room and Sterile core in Table 1;
- w) updated examples of health care facilities according to class in Annex B; and
- x) revised formulas and calculations in Annex C.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of the governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward

Island, Québec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon, as administered by the Canadian Association for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH).

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Special Requirements for HVAC Systems in Health Care Facilities, under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Health Care Facilities and the Strategic Steering Committee on Health and Well-being, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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# CSA Z317.2:19

## ***Special requirements for heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems in health care facilities***

### **0 Introduction**

Indoor air quality is an important health and wellness consideration, and is especially critical to the health of patients, visitors, staff, and occupants of health care facilities (HCFs). Inadequate indoor air quality can complicate patient care and recovery and negatively affect health and wellness. The proper design, installation, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of HVAC systems can decrease the risk of airborne transmission of organisms inside buildings and therefore the risk of healthcare acquired infections. Optimization of indoor air quality protects the health and safety of patients, staff, and visitors and supports positive clinical outcomes.

In addition, a well-designed HVAC system can help HCFs to meet their conservation objectives and promote the judicious use of renewable and non-renewable resources while delivering required comfort and safety for all building occupants.

### **1 Scope**

#### **1.1**

This Standard provides requirements for the planning, design, construction, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of HVAC systems in HCFs. In general, these requirements are more stringent than those applied to non-health care facilities.

**Note:** See Annex [A](#) for general guidelines on HVAC system design. Table [1](#) provides specific design parameters for HVAC systems.

#### **1.2**

This Standard

- a) specifies minimum values for certain parameters;
- b) establishes the suitability of different design options;
- c) establishes recommendations for zoning, controls, and monitoring; and
- d) outlines best practice for energy conservation.

#### **1.3**

This Standard is not intended to preclude the use of design concepts and the adoption of installation, operations, and maintenance procedures more stringent than those specified in this Standard. In cases where clinical evidence supports additional measures to improve the safety and efficacy of HCFs, such additional measures should be considered in the design, installation commissioning, operation, and maintenance of the HVAC system.