



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

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November 18, 2022

Dr. Ashish Jha
White House Covid Response Coordinator
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dr. Jha:

Thank you for meeting with the ASHRAE team to discuss the critical issue of indoor air quality standards and their effectiveness for mitigating risk from respiratory pathogens. I appreciate your recognition of ASHRAE as an expert in indoor air quality, and as a long-established standards development organization.

We appreciate the Administration releasing a National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan this year that addresses the importance of indoor air quality so that people can live and work safely indoors. The Administration's *Clean Air in Buildings Challenge* further emphasizes the importance of buildings and we are pleased that ASHRAE's resources are referenced to support these initiatives.

Your observation that mitigating risk from respiratory pathogens is not only dependent on vaccines, but that Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) has a critical role to play resonates with us. Importantly, your concern that the nation lacks an IAQ standard that addresses respiratory pathogens is one we share.

As the leader in standards development for building systems, ASHRAE is committed to developing a comprehensive, consensus-based, code enforceable National Indoor Air Quality Standard that would address mitigating risk from respiratory pathogens. With public health at stake, ASHRAE is prioritizing development of this standard and will deliver the standard within **six months**. An outline of the standard is enclosed for your reference. We will review this plan with the ASHRAE Board of Directors on December 6th.

As a consensus-based standard, we welcome input from all stakeholders, and appreciate feedback and involvement from technical experts within the Federal Government. Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to working in support of the Administration's commitment to protect the health of building occupants and reduce the risk of viral spread.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Mehboob".

Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

Enclosure



Developing a National Indoor Air Quality Standard to Mitigate the Risk from Respiratory Pathogens

November 18, 2022

Scope

Delivery of a comprehensive, consensus-based, code enforceable National Indoor Air Quality Standard to Mitigate the Risk from Respiratory Pathogens. The standard will include:

- Both design and operation;
- Alternative paths (prescriptive or performance), in which equivalent clean air would be the goal; and
- Testing, verification, documentation (commissioning) and periodic re-commissioning.

Methodology

ASHRAE will set up a balanced team of internationally recognized experts to work on an accelerated timeline to develop the standard.

ASHRAE will develop a detailed title, purpose, and scope of the standard.

ASHRAE will seek input from a variety of stakeholders, including those with expertise from the federal government such as the White House Covid Response Team, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Laboratories.

Timeline

The overall timeline for delivery of the IAQ standard is estimated to be **6 months** from the date of commencement, with an aggressive push to deliver by March 31. The following is a high-level breakdown of key deliverables:

- Detailed title, purpose, and scope: 15 days.
- Draft standard for peer review: within 90 days.
- Peer review period: 14 days
- Address peer review comments and submit for final publication: 45 days.

Incorporation of Pathogen Mitigation into ANSI Standards 62.1 and 62.2

In coordination with the pathogen mitigation standard development effort, ASHRAE will work to incorporate similar provisions into existing ASHRAE IAQ standards.

Options Post Development

ASHRAE could develop additional resources supplemental to the IAQ standard:

- Education and Training
- Design Application Guidance
- Operations and Maintenance Resources
- Other Resources