

ASHRAE 170-2025 Filtration Project Checklist

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For hospital engineers, designers, contractors and infection prevention teams

Project checklist

Item	Done / notes
☐ Confirm the adopted FGI and ASHRAE 170 editions with the AHJ.	
☐ List every space by its FGI 2026 space type name so the correct table row applies.	
☐ Record the required filter efficiency per space from the tables (for example MERV 7 pre-filter, MERV 14 or MERV 16 final filter, or HEPA at the terminal).	
☐ If filters are rated to a non-ASHRAE 52.2 method, document the equivalence and keep test reports.	
☐ For nuclear medicine and I-131 areas, coordinate 170 pressure and exhaust with radiation-protection requirements (HEPA plus activated carbon).	
☐ Check exhaust discharge locations and stack heights against outdoor air intakes.	
☐ Plan Section 10 construction ventilation: negative pressure, HEPA exhaust, intake protection.	
☐ Check outpatient turndown schedules against pressure relationships.	
☐ Decide whether ASHRAE 241 infection risk management mode also applies.	
☐ Specify filter access, differential pressure gauges and replacement intervals for operations staff.	

The 12 changes in 170-2025 (per ASHE)

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| 1. Optional natural ventilation | 7. Reserve capacity and on-site fuel |
| 2. Total outdoor air at the system level | 8. Section 10: ventilation during construction |
| 3. Class 2 and 3 imaging, nuclear medicine | 9. Alternative filtration test methods |
| 4. Outpatient unoccupied turndown | 10. Consistent table requirements |
| 5. Separation distances and stack heights | 11. Bronchoscopy |
| 6. Behavioral health | 12. FGI 2026 space types |

Filtration reminders

Since 170-2021: MERV 16 for operating rooms, cesarean delivery and Class 3 imaging; HEPA at air terminals for higher-acuity procedures. 170-2025 adds equivalent alternative filtration test methods; equivalence applies to the test method, not to the required efficiency. Standard 170 is binding only once adopted by your authority having jurisdiction (FGI 2026 incorporates 170-2025).

Full guide with sources: iodineairsystems.com/ashrae-170-2025-what-changed-healthcare-air-filtration/ · This checklist is general guidance, not a substitute for the standard or your AHJ's requirements. Iodine Air Systems, a service of SortLease LLC, 30 N Gould St Ste R,

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