Air Filtration for Healthcare

Typical Airborne Contaminants Found in Healthcare Facilities

- Bacteria - one-cell organisms that multiply by cell division
- Virus - multiply by entering a host cell, using the cell’s DNA to manufacture clones of themselves
- Fungi - multiply through the formation of spores that separate from the parent
Healthcare related expenditures represent as much as one-sixth of the economy of the United States. It is an industry that cannot compromise on cleanliness or air quality. From emergency treatment and in-patient stays, to regularly scheduled office visits, it is critical that healthcare procedures are delivered in a clean environment that does not support the development of nosocomial infections.

A clean healthcare environment is achieved through the development of a comprehensive indoor environmental quality program. One of the key components of any program is the selection, installation and maintenance of air filters. The Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) has published the required levels of filtration for various patient treatment areas in healthcare facilities, and those guidelines are contained in this brochure (see opposite page).

Hospital air filtration is typically set up with two-stage or three-stage filtration banks. This ensures that the maximum amount of contaminants are removed. Each stage of air filtration will capture the particle sizes for which it is designed. This allows the higher efficiency filters installed in the final stage to remove finer particulate and aerosols without being blinded by larger particles that shorten service life.

Air filtration for healthcare facilities has advanced dramatically. New media and filter designs have created products that can serve to upgrade filtration in healthcare applications. As an example, the Airguard® Micro Guard® LR series of high-efficiency filters provides removal efficiencies of 99% or greater on 0.3 micrometer at resistances comparable to, or lower than, some MERV 14 filters and at a lower cost than traditional 95% DOP and HEPA products. This provides facilities greater flexibility in choosing products when it is desirable to improve overall indoor air quality and deliver the maximum level of due diligence in protecting patients from airborne transmission of infectious contaminants.

An air filtration plan that is formulated by hospital engineering and infection control, under the direction of hospital management ensures compliance with applicable guidelines. Input from an Airguard air filtration professional ensures that the proper air filter is chosen, purchased, installed and maintained at the best total cost for the clean air your healthcare facility requires. This brochure provides information on Airguard products manufactured for use in two-stage and three-stage air filtration systems designed for healthcare facilities.

Contact your local Airguard Distributor, Territory Manager or our Technical Services group for additional information or to order.
### Filtration Efficiencies for Central Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Systems in General Hospitals

**ASHRAE Handbook 2011 HVAC Applications**

**MERV** = minimum efficiency reporting value based on ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2012

**HEPA filters or air outlets**

**For guidance on selection and placement of filters. See ASHRAE Standard 170.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Designation</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Filter Beds</th>
<th>Filter Bank No. 1 (MERV)</th>
<th>Filter Bank No. 2 (MERV)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic operating room, Bone marrow transplant operating room, Organ transplant operating room</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>HEPA&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General procedure operating rooms, Delivery rooms, Nurseries, Intensive care units, Patient care rooms, Treatment rooms, Diagnostic and related areas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratories Sterile storage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food preparation areas, Laundries, Administrative areas, Bulk storage, Soiled holding areas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> MERV = minimum efficiency reporting value based on ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2012

<sup>b</sup> HEPA filters or air outlets

<sup>c</sup> For guidance on selection and placement of filters. See ASHRAE Standard 170.

### Minimum Filtration Efficiencies 2014 Guidelines

**ASHRAE Standard 170-2013 Ventilation Healthcare Facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space Designation (According to Function)</th>
<th>Filter Bank No. 1 (MERV)&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Filter Bank No. 2 (MERV)&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating rooms (Class B and C surgery); Impatient and ambulatory diagnostic and therapeutic radiology; inpatient delivery and recovery spaces</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient care, treatment and diagnosis, and those spaces providing direct service or clean supplies and clean processing (except as noted below); All (rooms)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective environment (PE) rooms</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>HEPA&lt;sup&gt;c,d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratories; Procedure rooms (Class A surgery), and associated semi restricted spaces</td>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative; bulk storage; soiled holding spaces; food preparation spaces; and laundries</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other outpatient areas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing facilities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric hospitals</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident care, treatment and support areas in inpatient hospice facilities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident care, treatment and support areas in assisted living facilities</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NR = not required

**Notes:**

a. The minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) is based on the method of testing described in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2, Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size ([ASHRAE 2012] in Informative Appendix B).

b. Additional pre-filters may be used to reduce maintenance for filters with efficiencies higher than MERV 7.

c. As an alternative, MERV 14 filters may be used in Filter Bank No. 2 if a tertiary terminal HEPA filter is provided for these spaces.

d. High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters are those filters that remove at least 99.97% of 0.3 micron sized particles at the rated flow in accordance with the testing methods of IEST-RP-CC001.3 ([IEST 2005] in Informative Appendix B).
The Role of Air Filtration

- Air filtration is a key component of a comprehensive plan to reduce the incidence of nosocomial infections in any healthcare facility
- Air filtration particulate removal efficiency is defined for each area of a healthcare facility
- Proper maintenance of air filters and air handling units (AHUs) is critically important
- Understanding positive and negative airflow is essential to infection control, isolation, and protection from airborne pathogens
- Achieving the level of clean air required for the application is the primary driver; unit cost of air filters is not!

First Stage / Pre-filters

**XTREME+Plus® Self Supported Pleated Filters**
- 1", 2" and 4" depths available
- 100% synthetic media
- Self supported
- Damage resistant
- 16.4 (HC), 10.2 (SC) pleats per foot (2")
- No metal
- Fully incinerable
- Mechanical MERV 8 @ 492 FPM

**DP® 40/ DP Max Pleated Filters**
- 1", 2", 4" and 6" (only DP Max) depths available
- Die cut beverage board frame
- 100% synthetic media
- 15.0 (DP40), 10.0 (DP Max) pleats per foot (2")
- Mechanical MERV 8 @ 492 FPM

**PowerGuard™**
- 1", 2" and 4" depths available
- Die cut beverage board frame
- 100% synthetic media
- 14.3 pleats per foot (2")
- MERV 11 @ 492 FPM

**DP-green™**
- 1", 2" and 4" depths available
- 100% synthetic media
- 17.5 pleats per foot (2")
- LEED/Green Compliant
- MERV 13 @ 492 FPM
Second and Final Stage Filters
High-Efficiency ASHRAE Grade Filtration

Second and Final Stage Air Filtration
• Several options are available
• Typically the most efficient filters
• HEPA filters must be used where specified
• All Final Stage Filters must be protected by quality pre-filtration to ensure required performance

• MERV 14 and 15 models meet the efficiency requirements required to contribute points toward a LEED/Green Building certification.
• Airguard’s E-pleat® technology provides increased airflow and lower energy costs.

Legacy®
• Low resistance
• High efficiency
• High dust holding capacity
• 4” MERV 11 & 14
• 12” MERV 11 & 15
• 100% synthetic media
• Moisture resistant
• Chemical resistant
• All plastic construction
• Fully incinerable
• Light weight

V-Force®
• All plastic construction
• 100% synthetic media
• Moisture and chemical resistant
• Fully incinerable
• Low resistance
• Three efficiencies -
  MERV 14 @ 492 FPM
  MERV 13 @ 492 FPM
  MERV 11 @ 492 FPM
HEPA Grade Filtration  
for Hospital HVAC Systems

Definition of a HEPA Filter
“Throwaway extended-medium dry-type filter in rigid frame having minimum particle-collection efficiency of 99.97% (that is a maximum particle penetration of 0.03%) on 0.3 micrometer particles of thermally-generated DOP particles or specified alternative aerosol.”  
- Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (IEST)

HEPA in Healthcare
• Must meet established standards for particulate removal efficiency
• Minimum 99.7% removal of 0.3 micrometer particles
• Essential for capturing viruses
• Required in critical care areas e.g., isolation rooms; neonatal; burn units, etc.
• Requires HEPA level holding frames to ensure performance
• More resistance to airflow; higher operating costs when compared to lower-efficiency air filters

HEPA Filter Testing
HEPA filters should be factory tested to ensure the minimum efficiency 99.97% on 0.3 micrometer particles. Personnel installing/replacing should be trained in proper installation and proper personal protection. In-place challenging for integrity is highly recommended.

HEPA Filter Integrity Testing
• In-situ integrity
• Full media scan
• Also includes joints, frames, ceiling, gaskets and other seals

Micro Guard® 99 & SC - Series
• Ultrafine microglass paper media
• Wood and metal construction
• Gasket seal and gel-seal models
• Wide variety of cell side configurations
• Corrugated aluminum separators
• Three efficiencies 99.97%, 99.99%, 99.999% on 0.3 micrometers
• Micro Guard SC has fewer pleats and an efficiency of 99.97% on 0.3 micrometers

Micro Guard® 2000
• Ultrafine microglass paper media
• Wood and metal construction
• Gasket seal and gel seal models
• Wide variety of cell side configurations
• Corrugated aluminum separators
• 500 FPM @ 1.35” W.G.
• 99.97% and 99.99% efficiencies
Hospital / Healthcare Air Filtration

**MicroPlet™**
- Ultrafine microglass paper media
- Anodized extruded aluminum cell sides
- Gasket seal, gel seal and knife edge models
- Continuous bead mini-pleat adhesive separators
- Four efficiencies 99.97%, 99.99% and 99.999% on 0.3 micrometers; 99.9995% on 0.12 micrometers

**MicroPlet™ Disposable Ducted Ceiling Modules**
- Anodized extruded aluminum construction
- 2’ x 2’ and 2’ x 4’ sizes
- Low profile design - 5” deep. Fits into T-bar ceiling grid
- Fixed or adjustable diffuser/damper
- Three efficiencies - 99.99% and 99.999% on 0.3 micrometers; 99.9995% on 0.12 micrometers

**Micro-V™ 2000**
- 500 FPM @ 1.2” W.G.
- 99.97% and 99.99% efficiencies @ 500 FPM
- 99.999% efficiency @ 400 FPM
Near-HEPA Grade Filtration
for Hospital HVAC Systems

In applications where HEPA filters are not specified but a high level of efficiency is necessary, Airguard offers the near-HEPA, Micro Guard LR. The LR provides 99% plus efficiency on 0.3 micrometer particles without the high cost and resistance to air flow associated with true HEPA filters.

The LR provides a sensible, cost-effective due diligence approach to air filtration where high efficiency is needed, but HEPA is not required.

Micro Guard® LR

- 99%+ efficiency on 0.3 micrometer particles
- Classified per UL Standard 900 for flammability
- E-pleat® media pack with proprietary media technology
- Standard dove-tail interlocking gasketing
- Available in High-Impact Plastic (HIPS) cell side model in single header and box-style, metal sides also available - incinerable to ash - similar to cellulose
- Plastic cell side available in 4 sizes; metal cell side available in 6 sizes

Micro Guard LR filters are available in metal and HIPS cell side

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