



INTERPRETATION: IIAR SC 2018-2
August 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Use of Natural Ventilation in Machinery Rooms

QUESTIONS:

1: Section 6.14.1 of IIAR-2-2014 requires occupancy ventilation; Appendix 4.A Explanatory material allows natural ventilation to meet the requirements. Is natural ventilation an acceptable solution for occupancy in all instances or only for those systems when a machine room can be naturally ventilated?

ANSWER:

The requirements listed in Section 6 apply only to machinery rooms. Using natural ventilation for other occupancies is beyond the scope of IIAR 2. The text in appendix A is informative only and does not allow or disallow the use of any means or methods for complying with the requirements of the standard. Section 6.14.1 does not specify the means by which a designer may meet the requirements of that provision, but only requires that the listed minimum airflows be provided to the space during occupancy.

2: If natural ventilation is allowed in all cases what is the appropriate method of demonstrating the required air exchange requirements? Are the requirements from the 2015 International Mechanical Code sections 402.1 and 402.2 sufficient?

ANSWER:

Demonstrating how natural ventilation meets the intent of the provision is dependent on local conditions for a particular machinery room and is beyond the scope of the standard. Various methods of estimating or calculating natural ventilation air exchange rates exist in model codes or other standards and should be performed in a manner that is acceptable to the AHJ.

COMMITTEE ACTION: None