

VENTILATION

Ventilation Systems Cannot Remove Secondhand Smoke

- The US Surgeon General has acknowledged since 1986 that simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same airspace may reduce but does not eliminate, the exposure of nonsmokers to ETS.¹
- OSHA states that general ventilation as delivered by heating ventilation and air condition systems, is not an acceptable engineering control measure for controlling occupation exposure to ETS.²
- Even expensive particulate air cleaners cannot remove enough tar particles in room air to eliminate the cancer risk from environmental tobacco smoke. In general, filtration of indoor air to remove environmental tobacco smoke contaminants is futile-like trying to filter a lake to control water pollution.³
- ASHRAE concludes that even the newest ventilation technologies under ideal condition are incapable of removing all secondhand smoke and its toxic constituents from the air.⁴
- Ventilation rates would have to increase more than 1,000 fold to reduce the cancer risk associated with ETS to a level considered acceptable to federal regulatory agencies. Such a ventilation rate is impractical since it would result in a virtual windstorm.^{5,6}
- At present, the only means of effectively eliminating health risks associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity.⁴

Companies Agree, Ventilation Doesn't Work

- Honeywell, the leading manufacturer of ventilation products, as well as many other ventilation manufacturers state through disclaimers or company policies that ventilation cannot address the health risks of secondhand smoke.^{7,8}
- Philip Morris admits in its policies, practices and positions that ventilation has “not shown to address the health effects of secondhand smoke.”⁹
- *AtmospherePLUS* and *Options*, Philip Morris programs promoting ventilation as a means of addressing secondhand smoke both state that they “are not intended to address the health effects attributed to secondhand smoke.”^{10,11}

¹US Surgeon General. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Smoking. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, 1986. ²Department of Labor, Occupation and Safety and Health Administration. Federal Register notice of proposed rulemaking, “Indoor Air Quality”, FR 59:15968-16039, April 5, 1994 www.osha-slc.gov/FedReg_oseha_data/FED19940405.html. ³Repace, J., “Smoking in the workplace: Ventilation. In: Smoking Policy: Questions and Answers, no. 5.” Seattle: Smoking Policy Institute. ⁴American Society for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-conditioning Engineers. Position Statement: Environmental Tobacco Smoke. June 2005. ⁵Repace, J., “Smoking in the workplace: Ventilation. In: Smoking Policy: Questions and Answers, no. 5.” Seattle: Smoking Policy Institute. ⁶Repace, J., “An air quality survey of respirable particles and particulate carcinogens in Delaware hospitality venues before and after a smoking ban,” Bowie, MD: Repace Associates, INC. February 7, 2003. ⁷Americans for Non-Smokers Rights. Ventilation and Air Filtration: What Air Filtration Companies and the Tobacco Industry Are Saying. August 2005. ⁸Campaign for Tobacco-free kids. Ventilation technology does not protect people from secondhand tobacco smoke. ⁹Policies, Practices & Positions: Public Place Smoking, Reasonable Ways to minimize Secondhand Smoke,” pmusa.com. ¹⁰National Licensed Beverage Association. *AtmospherePLUS: How Ventilation Can Improve Customer Comfort and Profitability Brochure*. Alexandria, VA: National Licensed Beverage Association, 2000. ¹¹Options Philip Morris USA <http://www.pmoptions.com/>