ASHRAE 170-2025 Filtration Project Checklist

For hospital engineers, designers, contractors and infection prevention teams

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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)

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