

**SECTION 15992  
ON SITE TESTING  
VARIABLE AIR VOLUME FUME HOODS**

**PART I. GENERAL**

Test identified below, other than the ANSI/ASHRAE 110 test, were created by Farhad Memarzadeh of the National Institutes of Health in 1997 and further revised by Memarzadeh and Brightbill in 1999.

On site testing shall not start until testing, adjusting and balancing of the air and water systems, calibration and tuning of controls systems, off site testing of fume hoods and commissioning are complete and the facility is ready for occupancy.

**1.1 DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

1. The work of this section consists of on site testing the performance of variable air volume chemical fume hoods.
2. This section specifies procedures that are common to the scope of other sections including Division 11 sections on fume hoods.

**1.2 SUBMITTALS**

**1.2.1. TESTING EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

1. Specification sheets on all equipment proposed for on site testing specified in Part III of this section.
2. Sample test reports for approval. Contractor shall demonstrate the ability to perform necessary calculations on site the day of the test for the on site testing requirements.

**1.2.2 LIST OF HOODS**

Submit list of hoods to project officer a minimum of two weeks prior to start of testing. Project officer will check which hoods are to be tested and return submittal. Fifty percent of hoods will be tested.

**1.2.3 CERTIFICATIONS**

Submit test data attesting that each type of hood to be provided has been tested in accordance with the Modified ANSI/ASHRAE 110-1999 and meets the requirements of this specification.

**1.2.4 TESTING AGENCY STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Submit documentation of company experience and registration of the individuals supervising test.

### 1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

1. Testing agency for on site testing and off site mock up shall be independent of both the fume hood manufacturer and the fume hood control system manufacturer.
2. Independent testing agency shall be approved by the NIH project officer. Testing agency shall submit Statement of Qualifications demonstrating experience relating to fume hood testing. As a minimum testing agency shall:
  - a) Have a registered Professional Engineer or Industrial Hygienist supervise the testing
  - b) Demonstrate prior execution of indicated tests and submit a sample of the test report

### 1.4 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. ANSI/ASHRAE 110-1999 *Standard for Testing Performance of Fume Hoods*
2. National Fire Protection Association NFPA 45 - *Fire Protecting for Laboratories Using Chemicals*
3. ANSI/AIHA Z9.5 *Laboratory Ventilation Standard*
4. Memarzadeh, F.: *Methodology for Optimization of Laboratory Hood Containment, Volumes I and II*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health, 1996.

## PART II. PRODUCTS

### 2.1 TEST AND MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT

1. Anemometers:
  1. Accuracy:  $\pm 5\%$  of reading
  2. Internal Time Constant:  $\leq 100$  msDefinition
  - a. The Internal Time Constant (ITC) is the amount of time it takes the sensor to respond 63% of the way to a step change.
  - b. The Response Time is the length of time to get to within the stated accuracy of the sensor.
  - c. Response time = ITC \* 3 or 5 depending on what accuracy. Example: If the Response Time is 200ms, the ITC + 40 – ms.
2. Tracer Gas Ejector in accordance with ANSI/ASHRAE 110
3. Tracer Gas (SF6) Sensor:
  1. Sensitivity: 0.01 to 100 ppm

2. Accuracy:
  - a. Above 0.1 ppm:  $\pm 10\%$  of reading
  - b. Below 0.1 ppm:  $\pm 25\%$  of reading
4. Data Acquisition System: minimum 6 channel system capable so simultaneous sampling at 10 Hz or greater

### **PART III. EXECUTION**

#### **3.1 FUME HOOD CONTAINMENT TESTING (ON SITE)**

1. General: Variable volume fume hoods shall be tested as installed to assess the level of containment. Tests shall be performed during static and dynamic conditions. Testing shall be conducted as outlined below for 50% of the hoods provided in the project. Tests shall be characterized and referred to in two basic categories "Static" and "Dynamic". While elements of both static and dynamic testing exist in both test categories, these names shall be used for reference. Testing shall be conducted in accordance with ASHRAE 110 - Method of Testing Performance of Laboratory Fume Hoods except where modified herein.
2. Static Testing: This is primarily a test of the hood and laboratory configuration.
  1. Hoods will be tested with simulated apparatus. This apparatus will consist of: two each 3.8 L round paint cans, one 300mm by 300mm by 300mm cardboard box, three each 150mm by 150mm by 300mm cardboard boxes. These items will be positioned from 150mm to 250mm behind the sash, randomly distributed, and supported off the work surface by 50mm by 50mm blocks.
  2. The test gas will have a 6 LPM flow rate for tracer gas and rapid walk-by test.
  3. The tracer gas and rapid walk-by test will be conducted at the center position for the manikin only.
  4. Each tracer gas test duration will be 5 minutes.
  5. Acceptable test results will be 0.05 PPM or better.
  6. At the conclusion of each 5-minute test there will be three rapid walk-by at 300mm behind the manikin. Each walk-by will be spaced 30 seconds apart. If there is a rise in test gas concentration, it cannot exceed 0.10 ppm and must return to 0.05 ppm within 15 seconds.

7. There will be a minimum of three and a maximum of five people in the test room during the test procedure.

8. Representatives of the NIH will witness the tests.

9. Test of Alarm: Shut off the fume hood exhaust and verify that the individual fume hood alarm activates.

10. Test individual controls: Test any controls that are provided at the fume hood such as unoccupied cycle override, alarm override, etc.

3. Dynamic Testing: These tests primarily test the dynamic performance of the fume hood control system. This group of tests measures hood performance parameters through various dynamic "events". Events shall include four sash movements up and down across differing ranges, walk-bys in front of the hood, and opening and closing the laboratory door commensurate with a person entering and exiting the room. The four sash movement tests shall include 25% to 100% operating position, 50% to 100% operating position and two other sash movements as directed by the project officer. The sash movements can be other hoods on the same system.

1. Hood parameters to be determined for each event are defined as follows (refer to the figure below for a graphical representation of some parameters):

a) Measured Face Velocity (FV<sub>m</sub> expressed in m/s): Face velocity measured in the plane of the sash at each grid point. Three sensors shall be used simultaneously at each point. Samples for each sensor shall be recorded simultaneously at no less than 10 Hz. Sensors shall have an internal time coefficient of no more than 100 ms and be matched with a data acquisition recorder with 10 Hz or better frequency. The sensors shall basically be a point sensors located at appropriate grid points. Averages shall be calculated for any point in time to assess overall measured face velocity, however individual sensor samples shall be used in calculating Turbulence Intensity (TI) for each sensor. Grid points shall be evenly spaced with no more than 300 mm between points.

b) Total Exhaust Air Flow (TEF expressed in L/s): Total exhaust flow measured in the main exhaust duct leaving the hood. This parameter shall be recorded at no less that 10 Hz. The sensing methodology used for the recorded data shall represent the total airflow through the full range of flows and be validated by independent multi-point measurement. If the fume hood control system uses a flow sensing element, that element may be used assuming it can be calibrated across

the full range of flow. Sensing elements must have an internal time coefficient of no more than 100 ms.

c) Variable Face Area (FA<sub>v</sub> expressed in square meters): Face Area of the hood that varies as the sash is moved within specified limits

d) Fixed Face Area (FA<sub>f</sub> expressed in square meters): Face area of the hood with sash at minimum position (minimum position should correlate with the maximum bypass flow through the hood)

e) Hood Airflow Leakage (HAL expressed in L/s): The difference in airflow between the measured airflow through the face (at minimum position) and the total air flow measured in the exhaust duct.

f) Calculated Face Velocity (FV<sub>c</sub> expressed in m/s): Face velocity determined from the following equation:  $((TEF-HAL)*1000)/(FA_v + FA_f)$

g) Steady State Face Velocity (SSFV): The average of all sampled face velocities for a 5 second period. Two SSFVs will be determined for both measured face velocity and calculated face velocity; one before the event (SSFV<sub>b</sub>) and one after (SSFV<sub>a</sub>). The SSFV<sub>a</sub> will start two seconds after the end of Time to Steady State (TSS). The second suffix of m for measured and c for calculated shall be used to indicated the type of assessment

h) Face Velocity Baseline (FVBL): The average of SSFV<sub>a</sub> and SSFV<sub>b</sub>

i) Control Linearity (CL expressed in %):  $Abs(SSFV_a - SSFV_b)/(FVBL)*100$

j) Time to Steady State (TSS<sub>10</sub> and TSS<sub>5</sub> expressed in seconds): The elapsed time from the initial sash movement until the FV<sub>c</sub> reaches and stays within  $\pm 10\%$  or  $\pm 5\%$  of FVBL (as indicated by the subscript)

k) Face Velocity Overshoot/Maximum Deviation-(FVO expressed in %): Calculated using the Calculated Face Velocity sample furthest from the FVBL (FV<sub>f</sub>) throughout the test per the following equation:  $Abs((FV_f - FVBL)/FVBL)*100$ . Samples include initial face velocity deviation immediately following the sash movement as the controls initially respond to the movement of the sash.

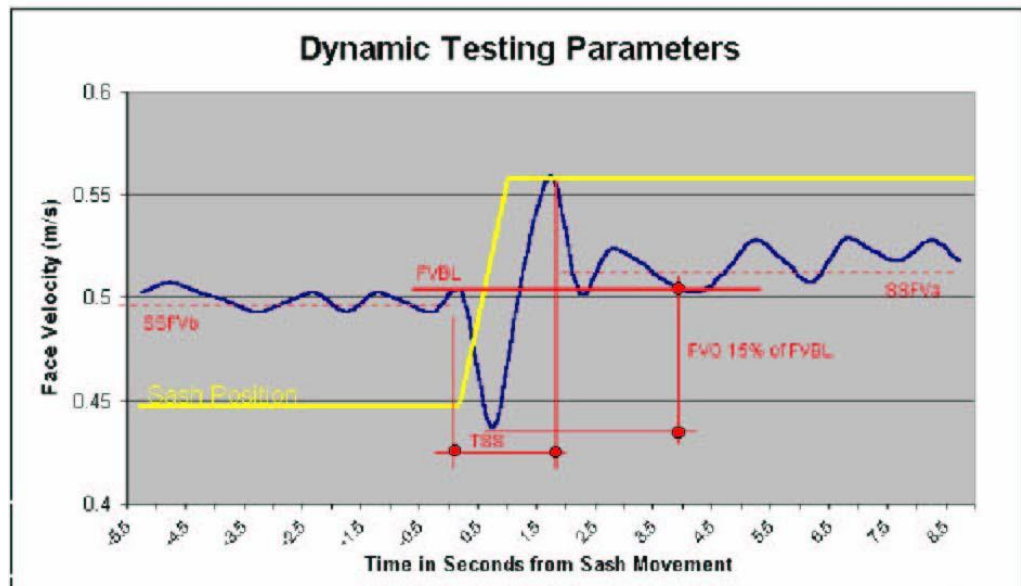
l) Response Time Constant (RTC expressed in seconds): Elapsed time between initial movement of the sash and the initial subsequent movement of the exhaust valve.

m) Steady State Deviation (SSD expressed in %): Face velocity variation from SSFVa or SSFVb as applicable. Calculated using the furthest sample from the applicable SSFV (FVf) using the following equation:  $(\text{Abs}(\text{FVf}-\text{SSFV}_x)/\text{SSFV}_x)*100$

n) Controllability (expressed in mV/mm): Describes controller response to changing sash position, i.e.: Controllers response signal change per unit distance of sash movement

o) Sash Position (SP expressed in mm): For vertical sashes - Vertical distance from the sill of the hood to the bottom of the sash. The minimum sash position shall correlate to the position of the sash when the minimum flow through the hood is all through the face. Maximum sash position shall be defined as a distance of 659-792 mm. This parameter shall be recorded at no less than 10 Hz.

p) Controller Output (CO expressed in Volts): Control output to the controlling exhaust air valve. This parameter shall be measured and recorded at no less than 10 Hz.



q) Turbulence Intensity (TI expressed in m/s): Calculated root mean square of the fluctuating face velocity determined using FVm, calculated as follows:

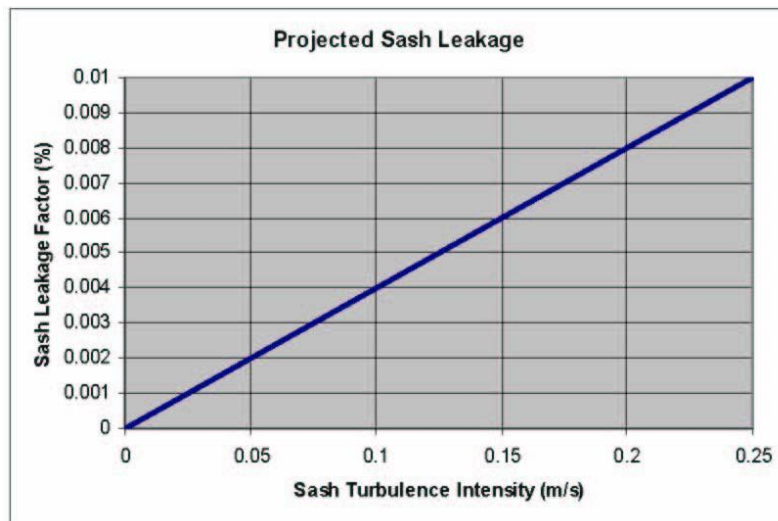
$$TI = [\text{SUM}_{1 \text{ to } n} ((FV_{m1}-\text{SSFV})^2 + \dots + (FV_{mn}-\text{SSFV})^2)]^{1/2}$$

This value shall be calculated for each of the steady state conditions

preceding and following each event. This shall be correlated to a "Box Leakage Factor" using the following graph of the installation using the Methodology for Optimization of Laboratory Fume Hood Containment" (MOLHC) by NIH Office of the Director, Farhad Memarzadeh principal investigator. While this value does not have a pass/fail requirement, it is the fundamental indicator of containment and therefore shall be clearly reported.

## 2. Parameter Performance Requirements:

- a) Face Velocity Baseline (FVBL):  $.51 \text{ m/s} \pm .05 \text{ m/s}$
- b) Control Linearity (CL expressed in %):  $< 2\%$
- c) Time to Steady State<sub>10</sub> (TSS<sub>10</sub> expressed in seconds):  $< 2$  Seconds
- d) Time to Steady State<sub>5</sub> (TSS<sub>5</sub> expressed in seconds):  $< 3$  Seconds
- e) Face Velocity Overshoot/Maximum Deviation:  $< 15\%$  which means at no point throughout the test shall a sample be recorded  $< 0.43 \text{ m/s}$  or  $> 0.59 \text{ m/s}$
- f) Response Time Constant (RTC expressed in seconds):  $< 0.5$



Seconds

g) Steady State Deviation (SSD expressed in %): < 5% assessed using calculated face velocities

h) Controllability (expressed in mV/mm): > 0.5 mV/mm

3. Alternate Parameter Performance Requirements: The following performance parameters are alternate requirements that can be used in assessing acceptable dynamic responses.

a) Face Velocity Baseline (FVBL): .51 m/s  $\pm$  .05m/s

b) Calculated Face Velocity (FVc): All samples >0.255 m/s and <.89 m/s meaning that at no time during the event shall the calculated face velocity go outside that range. Any sample recorded beyond that range will result in assessing the response as unacceptable.

c) Control Linearity (CL expressed in %): < 2%

d) Time to Steady State10 (TSS10 expressed in seconds): < 1.6 Seconds

e) Time to Steady State5 (TSS5 expressed in seconds): < 2 Seconds

f) Response Time Constant (RTC expressed in seconds): < 0.5 Seconds

g) Steady State Deviation (SSD expressed in %): < 5% assessed using calculated face velocities

h) Controllability (expressed in mV/mm): > 0.5 mV/mm

3. Test Execution: Testing agency shall be equipped to execute the testing and assess all performance parameters on site the day of the test. Data acquisition of required parameters shall be simultaneous.

4. Test Documentation: All testing, calculated, and recorded parameters shall be presented in a report that shows the recorded parameters graphically and tabulates and summarizes all the results. Performance of the hood, the hood controls, and the laboratory in general shall be described and summarized.



**The following goes only in the control manufacturer's spec.**  
FUME HOOD CONTROL TESTING (OFF SITE MOCK UP)

A. The manufacturer of the proposed fume hood control system shall mock up a fume hood installation and demonstrate the performance their system to validate that they can meet the requirements specified in Section 15992 – Testing of Variable Air Volume Fume Hoods. The off site test shall include all parameters under the control of the control system (FVBL, TSS, CL, RTC, SSD, and Controllability). It is not necessary to mock up the installation and assess TI. Events to be tested off site include all specified sash movements on the hood being tested. Walk-bys and door opening affects are not required for the off site test.

B. The testing shall be accomplished by an independent testing agency approved by the A/E and NIH. Reports shall be provided with the laboratory control submittals and no approval will be given for the fume hood control system until documentation of successful demonstration of the performance requirements are submitted.