



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

**ASHRAE Comments Regarding Int. 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130 – Indoor Air Quality
New York City Council Health Committee Hearing
September 27, 2023**

Good afternoon Chair Schulman and Members of the Health Committee, my name is Bill McQuade. I am the ASHRAE Treasurer and a member of the Central Pennsylvania ASHRAE Chapter. I'm pleased to submit these comments on behalf of ASHRAE regarding the proposed Indoor Air Quality bills.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global technical society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 53,000 members, including over 2,300 in New York State, focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability.

This testimony is regarding the proposed legislation establishing standards and reporting requirements for indoor air quality (IAQ) in city buildings and school buildings, as well as pilot programs to monitor indoor air quality in certain commercial and residential buildings. ASHRAE suggests that these ambitious bills would be further strengthened by referencing ASHRAE Standards 62.1 and 62.2, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality* for commercial and residential buildings, and ASHRAE's new Standard 241, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*.

We recommend that bills 1127, regarding school buildings, and 1130, regarding city buildings, incorporate ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, in their requirements for indoor air quality standards. IAQ can significantly affect student learning and development, and the COVID-19 pandemic has increased awareness of the impacts of IAQ on student health.¹ Adhering to the appropriate standards and guidance is essential to managing indoor air quality. Standard 62.1 specifies minimum ventilation rates and other measures intended to provide indoor air quality that is acceptable to human occupants and minimizes adverse health effects, due to poor indoor air quality. It defines the requirements for ventilation and air-cleaning system design, installation, commissioning, and operations and maintenance. It is intended for use in new buildings, as well as additions or changes to existing buildings. In addition, we also recommend the bills specify the most recent, up-to-date edition of Standard 62.1, which is currently the 2022 edition. This latest edition includes updates to the procedures and methods for meeting minimum ventilation and indoor air quality requirements, and a continued focus on indoor air quality, including improvements to the Indoor Air Quality Procedure (IAQP.)

ASHRAE also suggests the use of Standard 62.1 in bill 1128, establishing a pilot program to monitor IAQ in certain commercial buildings. Standard 62.2, the residential version of the

¹ *Managing Air Quality During the Pandemic: How K-12 Schools Addressed Air Quality in the Second Year of COVID-19*, ASHRAE and USGBC Center for Green Schools, May 2022:
https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/managing_air_quality_during_the_pandemic.pdf

standard, is likewise recommended for inclusion in bill 1129 regarding residential buildings. The voluntary pilot programs proposed by these bills would require measurement of ambient temperature, humidity levels, and certain air contaminants, and would benefit from incorporating the specifications and procedures in our 62.1 and 62.2 ventilation standards. The bills would also require the relevant agencies to make recommendations for improving IAQ in commercial and residential buildings, as well as recommendations for a permanent air quality regulatory framework, and these ASHRAE standards can assist in providing a valuable process for collecting and analyzing the necessary data to serve as a foundation for such a framework.

ASHRAE has also recently developed the new Standard 241, [*Control of Infectious Aerosols*](#), a standard for buildings that is focused on airborne infection risk mitigation. It establishes minimum requirements for building owners, operators and professionals to improve IAQ by reducing the risk of airborne disease transmission by infectious aerosols. Standard 241 is meant to be applied in periods of elevated risk, for example the risk of transmission of pathogens like the SARS-COV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. Under these conditions, buildings would operate in “Infection Risk Management Mode,” and building operators would have the flexibility to choose between different equivalent clean air options based on what they determine is appropriate for that type of space, along with their specific energy use goals or cost restrictions. This flexibility makes Standard 241 a powerful tool for mitigating transmission risk that can be adapted for use in the different types of buildings covered by the proposed bills, in combination with Standards 62.1/62.2.

ASHRAE members and staff are happy to provide a briefing on Standard 241 upon request, including Dr. William Bahnfleth, Chair of the committee that developed the standard. If you would like to set up a briefing, or have any other questions, please do not hesitate to have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

In summary, we strongly support the legislation’s aim to improve indoor air quality in schools, commercial, residential and city buildings, and believe that can be done most effectively by referencing ASHRAE Standards 62.1, 62.2, and 241 in the relevant proposed bills.

We appreciate the Committee’s consideration of ASHRAE’s comments. We welcome your questions and would be happy to provide any additional information as needed. Thank you for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants in New York City.