

CLEAN CORE AND OPERATING ROOM PRESSURE RELATIONSHIP

1. ISSUE: 2011 VA HVAC Design Manual **Surgical Suite - Room Data Sheet** on Page 6-90 indicates that "**Clean Core**" area "Room Air Balance" is "++" and "**Operating Rooms**" are "+". ASHRAE Standard 170 and the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) state that OR room pressure relationship to adjacent areas should be positive. This includes the "Clean Core" area

2. BACKGROUND: Facility Standards Service and VHA have reviewed the recent advances and requirements for the Surgical Suites. To better protect the health of Veterans, VA requires that all operating rooms shall have positive pressure relationship to adjacent areas including clean core area.

3. REQUIREMENT: Design teams working on VA projects are required to use the latest version of VA Design Guides and Design Manuals to determine the pressure relationships and meet all surgical suite requirements stated in VA Design Guides and Design Manuals. Therefore, in a Surgical Suite, "**Clean Core**" shall be negative to "**Operating Rooms**" and shall be positive to "**Semi-Restricted Corridor**" at all VA facilities.

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