

Construction Codes and Licensing – Building Plan Review

PLAN REVIEW POLICY

PR-05

Group I-3 Cell Ventilation

12/2023

2020 Minnesota State Building Code

Background:

The minimum required exhaust ventilation rate required by IMC Table 403.3 for a cell with a single toilet is 1 cfm/ft² of net occupiable floor area. Since by licensing the typical cell is a minimum 80 square feet, this would require a minimum of 80 cfm. Although this rate could be occupant initiated (i.e., switched), most of the time these types of facilities are designed for continuous operation (24/7) and 100% exhaust (no recirculating air). The minimum exhaust ventilation for a public toilet room with one toilet is 75 cfm but can be reduced to 50 cfm when designed to operate continuously, despite serving multiple users throughout the day. The code also permits a private toilet facility to be reduced from 50 cfm to 25 cfm under continuous exhaust. Since one mandate for CCLD is the conservation of energy, the 1 cfm/ft², with no reduction for continuous operation, not only increases the initial equipment cost but also results in increased energy cost associated with exhausting an excessive volume of conditioned air.

Policy:

For cells in group I-3 occupancies the minimum exhaust ventilation rate may be reduced from 1 cfm/ft² to 50 cfm provided, the cell is used by a maximum of 2 inmates and the exhaust runs continuously.

Note: To be used in accordance with “Plan Review Policy General Use, Document”