

Issues Surrounding the Addition of an Exhaust Hood to Your Facility

Adding an exhaust hood to an existing facility raises significant concerns relating to system performance and occupant health. It is important to analyze how the hood may adversely affect the performance of the building and quality of the air within the space. If you are considering adding an exhaust hood, the following issues should be considered:

1. Can the existing building ventilation system accommodate the hood?
2. Will you be reintroducing contaminated air back into the space through either the hood or the outdoor air intake?
3. Will the change in pressurization make it difficult to open doors to the room or possibly the building?
4. Will the addition of the hood cause outdoor air to enter the building through unsealed openings?
5. Is the fume hood exhausting air into a location potentially dangerous to areas surrounding the facility?
6. If improperly designed and installed, will the system cause a negative effect on the health and well-being to the occupants of the space and adjacent spaces?
7. Will the system make controlling the temperatures within the space difficult?

A thorough understanding of the building's existing systems and a detailed analysis of how the exhaust hood will impact your facility is important to the operation and safety of the facility and its occupants. Contracting a qualified engineer to provide this analysis and subsequent design will allow you to provide a system which works in coordination with other building systems in an energy efficient manner while providing a safe environment for the building occupants. A safe environment increases productivity and minimizes the liability to the building Owner.