Building Cleanrooms
- Regulations, Air-Handling, Design & Construction -

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1. What is a Cleanroom – Basics
2. Air-Handling Concepts & Devices
3. Cost and efficiency of Air-Handling devices
4. De-Centralized Air-Handling concepts & FFU‘s
5. Cleanroom Design
   - Avoiding Contamination
   - Walls, Ceiling, Floor
   - Work-Flow
   - Monitoring etc.
1. What is a Cleanroom?

A clean area, that is designed to reduce the contamination of processes and materials.

This is accomplished by removing or reducing contamination sources.

That means clean air, stable temperature, stable humidity, clean water, gases and chemicals, lighting, processing- equipment, inspection and test equipment, room infrastructure, etc.
1. What is a Cleanroom?

Particles

Contamination Sources:

- People    ~75%
- Ventilation ~15%
- Room Structure ~5%
- Equipment ~5%
1. What is a Cleanroom?

**Primary Sources**
- Exposed Skin/Hair / People
- Non-cleanroom Paper
- Garments
- Vinyl, PVC, Rubber, Ink
- Operations: drilling, cutting...
- Environment
- Equipment
- Chemicals
- Process

**Secondary Sources**
- Gloves
- Tools
- Work Surfaces
- Floor
1. What is a Cleanroom?

Examples:

- Fish Egg
- Cell
- Virus
- Fatty acid chain
- Mosquito
- Hair
- Bacteria
- Insulin
- Atom
1. What is a Cleanroom?  

**Examples:**

- Particles as small as 1 micro-meter (micron) $\Rightarrow 0,0000001\text{m}$
- The unaided eye can see particles as small as 50 microns on a good background
- The thickness of a human hair is 100 microns
- Time to fall 1 meter in still air for a 10 micron particle is 33 seconds, for a 1 micron particle is 48 minutes
- Humans generate $>1\times10^5$ particles per minute when motionless (fully gowned)
- Humans can generate $>1\times10^6$ particles when walking in the Cleanroom
1. What is a Cleanroom?

Cleanroom Standards:
ISO 14644 / GMP / DIN / WHO / BS5295 / JIS B9920 etc.

Example: Fed-Std. 209E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>Number of Particles per Cubic Meter by Micrometer Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.1 um</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 3</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 4</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 6</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 7</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cleanroom Class</th>
<th>Airflow Type</th>
<th>Airflow Velocity</th>
<th>Air Changes per Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>Unidirectional</td>
<td>60-100 fps</td>
<td>360-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unidirectional</td>
<td>60-90 fps</td>
<td>360-540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Unidirectional</td>
<td>50-90 fps</td>
<td>300-540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>U/N</td>
<td>40-80 fps</td>
<td>240-480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Nonunidirectional</td>
<td>25-40 fps</td>
<td>150-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Nonunidirectional</td>
<td>10-15 fps</td>
<td>60-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Nonunidirectional</td>
<td>1-8 fps</td>
<td>5-48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. What is a Cleanroom?

Cleanroom Standards:
Example: Fed-Std. 209E

FS209E requires 10 sample locations, 19.6 liter minimum sample volume (0.85 cf), and a sample time of 51 seconds. This yields a total minimum sample time of 510 seconds and 10 equipment moves.

ISO 14644-1 requires 5 sample locations, 19.6 liter minimum sample volume (0.85 cf), but also a minimum sample time of one minute yielding three samples of one cubic foot. This yields a total sample time of 180 seconds and three equipment moves.
1. What is a Cleanroom?

The manufacturing environment is critical for product quality. Factors to be considered include:

- Light
- Temperature
- Relative humidity
- Air movement
- Particulate contamination

- **Uncontrolled environment can lead to poor product quality**
  
  => loss of product and profit
1. What is a Cleanroom?

Parameters influencing the Cleanroom class:

- Number of particles in the air or on surfaces
- Number of air-changes for each room
- Air velocity and airflow pattern
- Filters (type, position)
- Air pressure differentials between rooms
- Temperature, relative humidity
- Facility Layout and Work-Flow

Part of the Solution:

Air-Filtration-Systems, Air-Conditioning-Systems
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

Cleanroom Class defined by Critical Parameters

Air Handling System

Additional Measures
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

Air Handling System

Production Room With Defined Requirements

Supply Air

Outlet Air
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

Airflow patterns

Turbulent
- dilution of dirty air

Unidirectional/laminar
- displacement of dirty air
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

Operator protection at weighing station

UDA = Unidirectional Air-Flow

UDA, Unidirectional air.
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

Figure 6-1. Laminar Air as it Meets Obstacles

Source: White-Cube Corporation
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

Centralized Air-Conditioning System:
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

De-Centralized System: Air-Conditioning in combination with Fan Filter Units
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

De-Centralized System: Fan Filter Units & Cooling

- Approx. 10% outside air
- Approx. 8% off-air

Diagram:
- Air-Plenum
- FFU (Fan Filter Units)
- Cooling-Unit
- Cleanroom
- Double-Floor or Air-Grille in Wall
2. Air Handling Concepts & Devices

De-Centralized System: Fan Filter Units & Cooling
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

In regard to the design and use of an Air-Handling System, the following aspects need to be considered.

- Cleanroom conform realisation of production areas with a focus on contamination sources and safety aspects.

- Modular Cleanroom concepts for future changes and maintenance work.

- Independent supply systems (HVAC)

- Low investment cost, a good price- / product-ratio, avoiding falsely placed investments.

- Low running- and maintenance-cost
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

Cleanroom projects can be divided into three groups:

Cleanrooms that are being integrated into existing buildings by using the given building structure. The air-handling concept is almost always linked to the existing HVAC concept.

Integration of a Room-in-Room solution into an existing building with an independent air-handling system.

Cleanroom concept that is being designed and built together with a new building.
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

In a first planning phase is important to analyze the needs of a customer and to compare the requirements to the currently used Cleanroom / production process.

=> Often only small areas of the production have to be classified clean areas.

Most important it is to find the sources of contamination and to analyze how they can be controlled or avoided.

=> The biggest source of contamination is often people working within the Cleanroom. Proper clothing, Cleanroom “etiquette” training and discipline help to keep the levels low.

At the same time it is needed to create a scheme of cascaded room pressures. => Thus having the highest air-pressure within the room of the highest class all the way to the lowest or no over-pressure into the “grey” or “black” areas with no classification.

Large areas of filter covered ceiling should be avoided for cost reasons, “bay-solutions” are more cost-efficient.

=> Design of the Air-Handling system
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

The temperature difference between conditioned air and re-circulated air needs to be as big as possible.

=> This allows the amount of conditioned air versus the non-conditioned (re-circulated) air to be small.

Heat-exchange systems might also prove to be an additional means of lowering the running cost of a Cleanroom facility.

De-centralized Air-Conditioning (AC) units are more and more becoming an option that not only allows independence from existing building installations, but also in regard to their modularity, maintenance and price.

Short distances between the Cleanroom and the AC-system avoid pressure drops within the system.
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

Further into the planning process low air-exchange rates need to be realized.

Sections of high heat-emission have to be separated from the Cleanroom area. => This helps to keep the amount of cooling low and saves energy too.

Air-speed under the ceiling can be lowered in certain areas, achieving the same Cleanroom class by saving on filter media and energy cost.

Finally, the air-handling concept needs to be defined.

=> The best results have so called “return-air” systems. Here 80% (or so) are being recirculated to the Cleanroom, whilst 10-20% of the air are being conditioned via an Air-Conditioning system and/or are outside air.
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

The energy use of Cleanroom environmental systems varies with the system design, Cleanroom functions and critical parameter control including filtration, temperature and humidity.

“…A review of studies on Cleanroom operation costs indicated that energy cost could amount to 65 – 75% of the total annual cost associated with Cleanroom operation and maintenance…” (LBNL-51549, Contamination Control Society)

Comment:
- Energy cost
- Cost of a Cleanroom C$ 350 - ..... depending on class and system
- Investment cost HVAC C$ 800 - ..... Depending on class and system
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

Cost of Cleanrooms, without AC-System, walls and flooring
(Source: Dipl. Ing. W. Gerk, KI, 2003)
### 3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

Cost for Cleanroom Modules, based on the supply-air concept, without AC-System, walls and flooring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type (values per m² Cleanroom):</th>
<th>Centralized</th>
<th>De-Centralized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply-Air velocity (m/s)</td>
<td>0,45</td>
<td>0,45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply-Air Volume (m³/h)</td>
<td>1620</td>
<td>1620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return-Air Volume (m³/h)</td>
<td>1460</td>
<td>1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside-Air Volume (m³/h)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency of AC-Unit (ƞ)</td>
<td>0,8</td>
<td>0,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air-Differential Pressure AC-Unit (Pa)</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency of Fan-Motor (ƞ)</td>
<td>0,8</td>
<td>0,65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Air-Pressure difference of Fan (Pa)</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Consumption (W)</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Energy Savings (W))</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Energy Saving from motors/fans: \(0,187W \times 8760h/a \times 0,092\text{€} = \text{approx. € 150,00/a}\)

Energy Saving (electrical) for Cooling: \(0,187W \times 0,33 \text{ (eff.)} \times 8760h/a \times 0,092\text{€} = \text{approx. € 50,00/a}\)

Total amount of energy savings per m² Cleanroom and year: \(= \text{approx. € 200,00/a}\)

(values based on projects sized 200m² - 1.000m², Dipl. Ing. W. Gerk, KI, 2004)
3. Cost and Efficiency of Air-Handling Systems

The types of recirculation systems, design details, and layout, can largely affect the magnitudes of overall air system efficiency.

The bottom line is that reducing resistance in the air path throughout air systems can lower pressure drops, and thus require less fan power and energy to re-circulate the air needed to maintain effective contamination control.

(Excerpt taken from: Airflow Design for Cleanrooms and its Economic Implications, by Tengfang Xu, Ph.D., PE, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2007)

Amongst other aspects, the following issues are important as well.

- Optimizing exhaust flows on tools
- Lowering cleanroom airflow through HEPA filters
- Measuring key tools to optimize heat removal
4. De-Centralized Air Handling Concept – FFU’s

Example of a Cleanroom with different Zones:

Air class 1000  Air class 100  Air class 1000

TDL-Lights

Fan Filter Units
4. De-Centralized Air Handling Concept – FFU’s

Example of a Cleanroom with different Zones:
4. De-Centralized Air Handling Concept – FFU’s

Example of a Cleanroom with different Zones:
4. De-Centralized Air Handling Concept – FFU’s

3-D view of a Cleanroom construction
4. De-Centralized Air Handling Concept – FFU’s

Integration of Fan Filter Units

FFU 585x585mm for material pass-through.
Individual Control of FFU’s:

- AC controllers for manual speed adjustment:
  - (e.g., laminar flow stations, bio-safety cabinets)
  - Improved linear variable speed adjustment
  - Quicker, more efficient operation with 3-wire connection
  - Manual speed or constant air flow setting via simple potentiometer and optional on/off switch
  - Soft start

- Group (parallel) AC FFU control:
  - Lowest cost configuration
  - Optional on/off lighting control
  - Group control of room pressure control
  - Configurable for manual control and sensor feedback

- Individual FFU’s:
  - ACR1022 - 2 A AC controller
  - ACR1033 - 3 A AC controller
  - ACR1042 - 4 A ACR1122 - 12 A AC controller
  - ACR1052 - 6 A ACR1302 - 20 A Group AC FFU network control

- Network Control Consoles / BMS Interface:
  - ACC1 - local control, max. 125 addresses
  - ACC2 - local control, max. 500 addresses
  - ACC3 - PC-based control + PC software, max. 125 addresses
  - ACC4 - local and PC-based control + PC3 software, max. 500 addresses
  - Fieldbus gateway to Lumelworks, EtherCAT and other BMS controllers

- SMART SYSTEMS FEATURES:
  - Constant air flow control for AC & EC fans
  - Standby mode during “off” hours
  - Soft-start at power up
  - FFU error reporting
  - Emergency shut-down
  - Robust network architecture
  - Flexible network configuration: grouped & individual drives
  - AC & EC; speed, air flow and pressure control

- SMART SYSTEMS BENEFITS:
  - Energy cost savings
  - Lower cost installation
  - Quieter operation
  - Rapid reaction to FFU errors
  - BMS integration
  - Air flow optimization

- Network peripheral modules:
  - BMS output to alarm relay
  - Input from standby switch closure
  - Input from emergency stop switch closure
5. Optimizing a Cleanroom

- Cleanroom Design
- Avoiding Contamination / Cleanroom Discipline
- Material Exchange / Air-Showers
- Enclosures for Machinery
- Reducing Power Consumption
  - Machines / Process
  - Lighting (T8 / T5 / other lamps)
- Work-Flow
  - Storage next to end of production line
  - Warehouse / Stock centralized
5. Cleanroom Design:

- Wall Systems
- Ceiling Systems
- Flooring
- Doors & Windows
- Control Systems
  - Light
  - Interlock
  - Monitoring etc.
5. Cleanroom Design: Walls Systems

-Mono-Block Systems:

One block wall system, 50 or 60mm thickness, surface powder coated steel, joints often covered with silicone. Panel core mineral wool, polyurethane or honey-combe. These walls types often are used for pharmaceutical Cleanrooms. Heavy duty construction, more for fixed room layouts.

- Modular Wall Systems:

Singles shell or double shell framed wall systems. Modular structure with glass, aluminium or other type panels. Ideal for semiconductor applications, as the Cleanroom can be easily adapted to production layout changes.
5. Cleanroom Design: Mono-Block Systems
5. Cleanroom Design: Mono-Block Systems

Advantages:
- Insulation properties
- Solid structure
- Smooth surface and joints
- Use in high Cleanroom classes

Dis-Advantages:
- Higher in price
- Not easy to change room layout
- Integration of horizontal ducts
5. Cleanroom Design: Modular Systems
5. Cleanroom Design: Modular Systems
5. Cleanroom Design: Modular Systems

Advantages:
- lower in price
- modular, easy to change
- Integration of horizontal ducts
- Use in high Cleanroom classes

Dis-Advantages:
- Reduced insulation properties
- Surface flush, but with joints
- Less load bearing
5. Cleanroom Design: Wall Systems
5. Cleanroom Design: Room-in-Room structures
5. Cleanroom Design: Monitoring Systems
5. Avoiding Contamination:

![Diagram of a person with many contaminants]

Figure 1-9. The Dirt Generator
5. Avoiding Contamination:

The following rules are to be observed by all persons qualified to work in the Cleanroom:

1. Only personal qualified through the Cleanroom Access Training program are allowed to enter the Cleanroom.

2. No makeup shall be worn inside the Cleanroom.

3. Food and drinks are prohibited in the Cleanroom.

4. No smoking is allowed before entering the Cleanroom.

5. Clothing Requirements. Everyone must wear full-length pants and closed shoes, such as safety shoes (no sandals, no open-toed shoes). In addition to that suitable cleanroom gowning, e.g. head-caps and shoe-covers have to be used.
5. Avoiding Contamination:

8. Only use pens. Pencils are not allowed in the Cleanroom.

9. Hair nets, shoe covers, safety glasses, mustache/beard nets, and gloves must be worn at ALL times.

10. Nonessential items (tools, books, backpacks etc…) must be kept outside the Cleanroom or in the gowning room lockers.

11. Try not to sneeze, cough or breathe directly on a clean surface or into the product area.

12. Do not let your skin touch any surface in the Cleanroom. Do not touch your face with your gloved hand. Do not touch the outside of a glove (except for the wrist edge) with your ungloved hand.

13. Always clean up your work area before you leave.
5. Avoiding Contamination:

- Lab Coat / Gown
- Hood
- Shoe Cover
- Beard Protection
- Gloves
5. Material Exchange / Air-Showers

Source of pictures: Internet
5. Enclosures for Machinery
5. Work-Flow

Assembly

Cleanroom 2

Assembly

Source of pictures: Internet
What needs to be done?:

• Understand what you want and what you do
• Optimize your Building Structure
• Optimize your Air-Handling Concept
• Enforce a Cleanroom “etiquette”
• Train and certify all levels of personnel.
• Write & update process procedures.
• Create short ways to stock materials, supplies and storage
• Establish quality assurance.
A Clean-Room starts in your head!

THANK YOU!