

Framingham State College Heating–Cooling Policy

Control of Temperature & Relative Humidity

The Facilities department will make every effort to control temperature (as listed below) in all occupied areas of buildings during “Occupied” times and during “Approved Special Events”. *It should be noted that not all areas are air-conditioned. The Facilities department can only control temperatures within the capability of HVAC systems.*

In “Special Use Areas” the Facilities department will make every effort to maintain environmental conditions as required for that particular use.

In an effort to conserve energy, the Facilities department will raise/lower temperatures and turn on/off HVAC equipment to the maximum extent possible while protecting buildings against excessive environmental conditions.

Glossary

Approved Special Events: *Events that occur during “Unoccupied” times/days requiring approval per the “Facilities Use Policy”.*

Cooling Season: *May 15th through October 15th*

Cooling Set Point temperature: 75 –F;
Acceptable range based on control capability; 72-F to 78-F,

Heating Season: *October 15th through May 15th*

Heating Set Point temperature: 70-F;
Acceptable range based on system control capability; 68-F to 72-F,

Special Use Areas: *Buildings and/or areas within buildings that due to the nature of their use require specific environmental conditions.*

Occupied: *All times when buildings are open for business including normal operating hours and during approved special events.*

Unoccupied: *All times when building(s) are closed*

Reference information

This Indoor Air Thermal Comfort Standard is being proposed in an effort to ensure the well being, and comfort of everyone using college facilities while recognizing the need to use energy as effectively and efficiently as possible. Proposed indoor temperature, relative humidity thresholds fall within nationally accepted standards for indoor thermal comfort including ASHRAE Standard 55 and Standard 62, Thermal Comfort Guidelines published by the Massachusetts Department Of Labor, and the Massachusetts State Building Code.

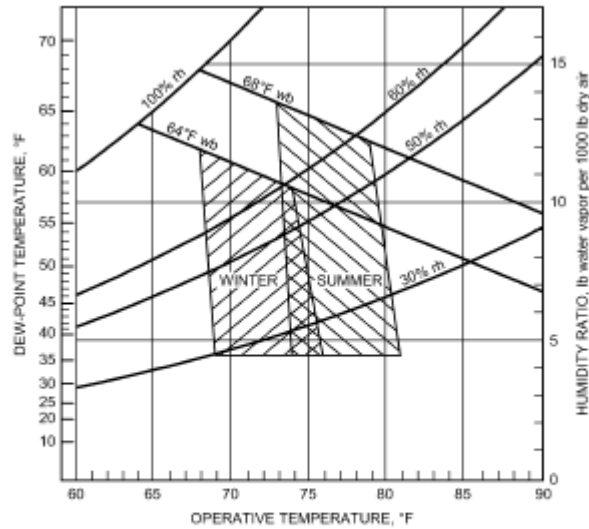


Fig. 5 ASHRAE Summer and Winter Comfort Zones
(Acceptable ranges of operative temperature and humidity for people in typical summer and winter clothing during primarily sedentary activity.)

MINIMUM HEATING GUIDELINES

Massachusetts General Law Section 113, Chapter 149 requires that adequate heat be provided from October 15 through May 15:

"Every factory, workshop, manufacturing, mechanical and mercantile establishment, railroad freight house, railway express terminal, public garages and premises used by express, trucking and transportation companies, and any other building in which a person is employed, other than a building under construction, shall be well lighted, well ventilated and kept free from unsanitary conditions. The work rooms therein in actual use shall be properly heated during the period from October 15 to May 15, according to reasonable rules and regulations adopted by the Department establishing minimum requirements with reference thereto;"

The following minimum temperatures have been established as guidelines by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Occupational Safety.

- Factories 60 - 62°
- Foundries 50 - 60°
- Machine Shops 60 - 62°
- Offices 66 - 68°
- Public Buildings 60 - 68°
- Restaurants 62 - 66°
- Schools 66 - 68°
- Stores 65°
- Theaters 62 - 65°

Standard Interpretations

02/24/2003 - Reiteration of Existing OSHA Policy on Indoor Air Quality: Office Temperature/Humidity and Environmental Tobacco Smoke.



[Standard Interpretations - Table of Contents](#)

• **Standard Number:** 1910.1000

February 24, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS STATE PLAN DESIGNEES

THROUGH: R. DAVIS LAYNE
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FROM: RICHARD E. FAIRFAX, DIRECTOR
DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: OSHA Policy on Indoor Air Quality: Office
Temperature/Humidity and Environmental Tobacco Smoke

On December 17, 2001 OSHA withdrew its Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) proposal and terminated the rulemaking proceeding (66 FR 64946). However, the Agency still receives public inquiries about IAQ, primarily office temperature/humidity and smoking in the workplace. For that reason, we have summarized the Agency's position and guidance on these topics. We are including language in the form of letters you can utilize when responding to complainants on these topics.

Office Temperature/Humidity

As a general rule, office temperature and humidity are matters of human comfort. OSHA has no regulations specifically addressing temperature and humidity in an office setting.

However, Section III, Chapter 2, Subsection V of the OSHA Technical Manual, "Recommendations for the Employer," provides engineering and administrative guidance to prevent or alleviate indoor air quality problems. Air treatment is defined under the engineering recommendations as, "the removal of air contaminants and/or the control of room temperature and humidity." OSHA recommends temperature control in the range of 68-76° F and humidity control in the range of 20%-60%.