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140.9c4 Fume Hood Automatic Sash Closure

The Linear Feet of Sash/10000 cf triggers for requiring automatic sash closures will apply to almost all labs with more than a 1 or 2 hoods. In those cases, the labs are likely not required to be VAV due to Minimum Ventilation of 4-6 ACH driven by client/EH&S guidelines.

In our experience serving startup biotech firms, the premium to add automatic sash closures will be very cost prohibitive as well as not cost effective. Most companies have 1-3 year business plans and the VAV requirements usually has an energy payback toward the end of this cycle. Many of these companies will not be in business in their initial forms long enough to recoup the additional capital expense of the sash closures. In our experience, a baseline system exhaust rate of 20,000 CFM is reflective of a breakpoint between small startup biotech labs and established larger companies with long term installations where VAV and sash closures would provide a payback.

Please consider adding a cfm trigger of 20,000 CFM or similar to exempt smaller labs from the VAV and sash closure requirements similar to the 5000 CFM trigger for DCV/VAV in Kitchen Exhaust Systems.