







Comparing Ventilation Trends in Southern Europe: Italy, France & Spain





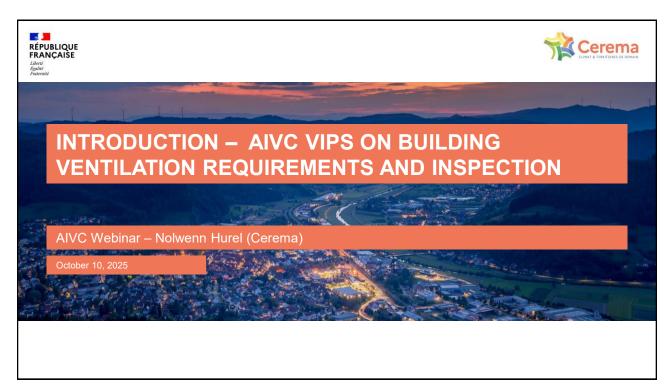






Agenda (CET)

- 10:00 | Introduction: Presentation of the series of AIVC VIPs on building ventilation requirements and inspection, Nolwenn Hurel (Cerema, France)
- 10:05 | National trends and requirements in Italy, Aldo Fumi (ASSOCLIMA, Italy) & Luca Alberto Piterà (AiCARR, Italy)
- 10:20 | Questions and answers
- 10:30 | National trends and requirements in France, Valérie Leprince (Cerema, France)
- 10:45 | Questions and answers
- 10:55 National trends and requirements in Spain, Pilar Linares-Alemparte (IETcc-CSIC, Spain)
- 11:10 | Questions and answers
- 11:30 | End of the webinar



VIP series on Building Ventilation

- Series of Ventilation Information Papers (VIP) published by the AIVC
 - "Trends in building ventilation requirements and inspection "
 - Similar to the Building & Ductwork Airtightness VIP series (13 papers)
 - Template prepared: similar structure for all papers
 - · Authors found in various countries via the AIVC board members
 - · Available on the AIVC website: https://www.aivc.org/collection-keys/vip







Building and ductwork airtightness trends and regulations - Nolwenn Hurel, Cerema

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VIP series on Building Ventilation

- Content: National trends in
 - · IAQ requirements and ventilation systems for residential and non-residential buildings
 - energy requirements and other drivers in energy performance, past & foreseen changes
 - the inspection of ventilation systems: requirements and protocols
 - · innovative systems and market
 - the impact of the COVID-19







Building and ductwork airtightness trends and regulations - Nolwenn Hurel, Cerema

- Content: Example of mandatory flowrate for typical buildings
 - House of 90 m² 3 bedrooms
 - · Apartment of 50 m² 1 bedroom
 - · Classroom of 50 m² 25 students
 - Office of 12 m² 1 occupant







Building and ductwork airtightness trends and regulations - Nolwenn Hurel, Cerema

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VIP series on Building & Ductwork Airtightness



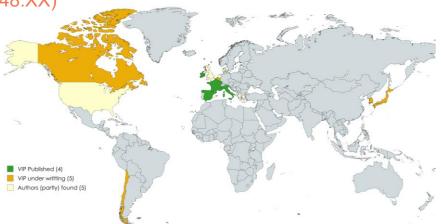
48.1 Spain

48.2 France

48.3 Ireland

48.4 Italy

(Belgium: under review)







Building and ductwork airtightness trends and regulations - Nolwenn Hurel, Cerema

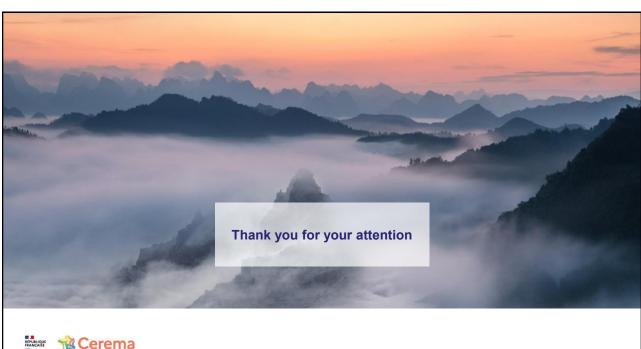
Webinar program:

- Comparing Ventilation Trends in Southern Europe:
 - Italy Aldo Fumi (ASSOCLIMA, Italy) & Luca Alberto Piterà (AiCARR, Italy) 15' (+10')
 - France Valérie Leprince (Cerema, France) 15' (+10')
 - Spain Pilar Linares-Alemparte (IETcc-CSIC, Spain) 15' (+20')





Building and ductwork airtightness trends and regulations - Nolwenn Hurel, Cerema











Trends in building ventilation requirements and inspection in Italy An image of the market

The Mechanical Ventilation in Italy

MECHANICAL VENTILATION TYPES:

EXHAUST, SUPPLY, **BALANCED & ENERGY RECOVERY**

Aldo Fumi, Head of Ventilation units and Air Treatment in Residential Buildings – ASSOCLIMA Luca A. Piterá, AiCARR Technical Secretary

Marco Simonetti, Politecnico di Torino Department of Energy "Galileo Ferraris" Michele Zinzi, ENEA Energy Technologies and Renewable Department

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Italy: Surface and Population



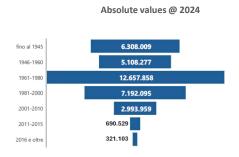


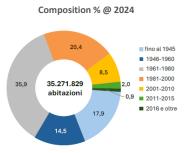
	Population (thousands)	% 0-14	% 15-64	% 65+		
1.1.2023	58,850	12.5	63.4	24.1		
2050						
UN	52,428	11.1	51.7	37.1		
ISTAT	54,165	11.7	53.4	34.9		
Eurostat 57,519		11.2	55.1	33.7		
	2070					
UN	44,455	10.9	51.8	37.4		
ISTAT	47,722	11.6	54.3	34.1		
Eurostat	53,333	10.9	55.5	33.6		

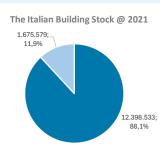




The Italian Building Stock







Residential Non-residential

A **very dated** housing stock... almost **70%** of homes built **before** the issuing of **anti-seismic** (1974) and **energy efficiency** regulations (1976)... over half of homes date back to '45-'81... over 40 years old... **maintenance** interventions **essential**.

Source: «Osservatorio congiunturale sull'industria delle costruzioni». January 2025

* Net of ownership transfer costs

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The Italian Building Stock: a missed opportunity

The **Superbonus 110%...** a building incentive measure introduced in May 2020... until 2023... provided for a series of **subsidies**, **deductions** and **reimbursements** for building works aimed at **modernizing buildings** and infrastructure, improving their **energy efficiency...** stimulating and reviving the construction sector after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mechanical ventilation... **not initially included** among the measures eligible for incentives...then added, but with **too low spending limits**... often overlooked... problems in renovated premises (excessive humidity... mould growth on walls and ceilings...)... compensated for by **ex-post** actions... **push-pull** units







The Italian Building Stock: a missed opportunity





energy efficiency class F or G.



Source: Nomisma 5





The Italian Construction Sector

2025 investments constructions... -7% vs 2024... drop of extraordinary housing maintenance... -30.0%... lower fiscal advantages... no more discount on the invoice...

investments Private residential buildings recovery... -2,5%

Public sector... +16%... end of PNRR (NextGenerationEU Plan)

Construction investments forecast

	2024	2022	2023	2024 ^(*)	2025 ^(°)
	Milioni di euro	Variazioni % in quantità			
COSTRUZIONI	223.467	8,9%	16,5%	-5,3%	-7,0%
ABITAZIONI	107.572	17,3%	14,5%	-19,8%	-25,8%
- nuove	16.406	3,3%	2,3%	-5,2%	-2,6%
- manutenzione straordinaria	91.166	20,0%	16,5%	-22,0%	-30,0%
NON RESIDENZIALE PRIVATO E OPERE PUBBLICHE	115.895	-0,8%	19,3%	13,6%	10,4%
Non residenziale privato	37.398	-11,3%	10,4%	0,7%	-1,4%
- privato nuovo	7.318	-43,6%	3,6%	0,5%	3,2%
- manutenzione straordinaria	30.081	4,5%	12,2%	0,8%	-2,5%
Opere Pubbliche	78.496	7,5%	15,0%	21,0%	16,0%

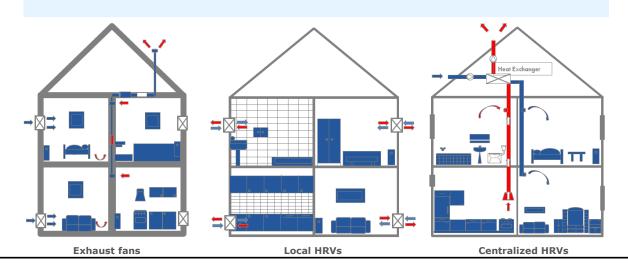
Source: «Osservatorio congiunturale sull'industria delle costruzioni». January 2025

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The Mechanical Ventilation in Italy: types of products



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The Mechanical Ventilation in Italy: a historical perspective

Mechanical ventilation... historically **not a priority** in Italy..., air exchanges achieved through **natural ventilation**... windows openings... not only in **homes**, but also in non-residential buildings... **schools** (primarily public), **offices**, **sports facilities**...

The **Mechanical Ventilation** only **mandatory** for **rooms without openings** to the outside, or where the **ratio** between the **openable surface area** and the **floor area** is < 1/8... intermittent extractor fans the most popular solution











The Mechanical Ventilation in Italy: the market of residential units

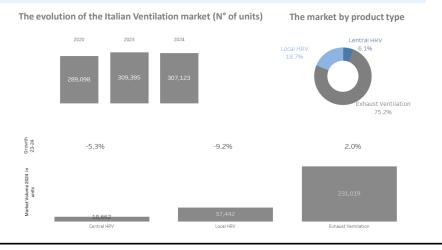
In the last decade... a strong rise of local HRVs... 10% of unit share in 2018... 20% in 2022... declining sales in 2023 and 2024... mounting economic pressures.

Push & pull units... under increasing **pricing pressure**.

Centralized HRVs... mainly installed in **new buildings...**

Exhaust fans... stable, mature segment

Source: Interconnection Consulting



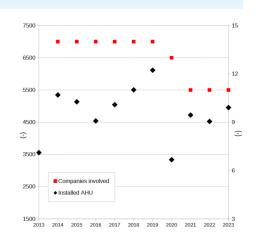
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The Mechanical Ventilation in Italy: the market of non-residential units

- Commercial HRVs and AHUs sold in 2023: about 13.000 units
- ~ 70% equipped with plate heat exchangers
- ~ 80% equipped with water coils
- Steady growth in 2016-2019... financial incentives... collapse in 2020... COVID-19 pandemic... partial recovery in 2021-2024
- 85%... small/medium-sized units (flow rates <= 15.000 m³/h)... only 2% > 50.000 m³/h



Source: Eurovent – Annual Statistics Results 2024





The Mechanical Ventilation in Italy: the expected future

The new regulatory framework will push the sales...

- National Decree 2022/183 sets Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) for the design and construction of buildings, including aeration, ventilation and indoor air quality... imposing minimal classes of IAQ for New buildings and Major 1st level Renovations (>= 50% of the building's volume) as well as for Major 2nd level Renovations (>= 25% of the building's volume).
- A further boost is expected from the implementation of the 2024/1275
 (EPBD IV) Directive, combining energy saving and greenhouse gas emission
 reduction with the protection of the health, well-being and comfort of
 occupants, specifying that renovations must "improve the quality of
 indoor environments" ... "better health and greater well-being are
 important ancillary benefits of increased energy performance in
 buildings".





Source: Eurovent - Annual Statistics Results 2024

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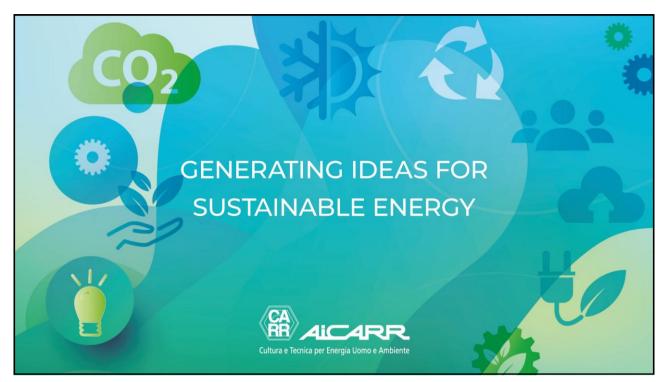




Trends in building ventilation requirements and inspection in Italy

An image of the market

Thanks for your kind attention!











Building Ventilation in Italy: Legislative & Standards Overview

- ✓ Aim: overview of binding legislation & technical standards for ventilation in Italy.
- ✓ Context: national laws + 20 Regions / 2 Autonomous Provinces; focus here is national framework.
- ✓ Historically: reliance on airing; MV required only in two cases.
- ✓ Legal minimums (Health Decree 5 july1975):
 - √ windowless toilets;
 - √ rooms with openable-window/plan-area < 1/8 → MV required.
 </p>









Residential IAQ: From UNI 10339 to UNI EN 16798-1

- UNI 10339:1995 (design standard) typical fresh-air rate: 11×10⁻³ m³·s⁻¹ per person (~ 40 m³·h⁻¹): extraction in kitchens & toilets. Withdrawn without replacement since july 2024.
- ✓ Alternative close reference now only for IAQ: UNI EN 16798-1:2019 (IAQ, thermal, lighting, acoustics). Transposed in Italy; formally adopted for public residential buildings via Decree june 2022 - Minimum Enviromental Criteria (CAM).
- Four IAQ categories (I–IV); three alternative methods for airflow sizing in dwellings (by floor area; by beds; hybrid).



Aldo Fumi, ASSOCLIMA - Marco Simonetti, Politecnico di Torino - Michele Zinzi, ENEA - Luca A. Piterà - AICARR

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GENERATING IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY







Non-Residential Ventilation & CAM (2022)

- Historically UNI 10339:1995 also used for non-residential (examples: 5.5 11×10⁻³ m³·s⁻¹ per person by space type).
- ✓ Specific building types covered by dedicated laws/decrees (schools: D.M. 18/12/1975; healthcare: D.P.R. 14/01/1997).
- ✓ CAM Decree 23/06/2022 (Minimum Environmental Criteria) key ventilation provisions: new buildings/major renovations (≥ 50% external surface); ensure UNI 10339 rates or meet EN 16798-1 Class II; second-level renovations (≥25% external surface): Class II accepted, Class III allowed if justified.
- Schools DPCM 26/07/2022: guidelines for air purification device and MV and mandatory monitoring (CO₂, formaldehyde, benzene, PM₁₀/PM₂ 5, T, RH) + technical measures to ensure acceptable IAQ.











Energy Performance & Ventilation (Decrees + UNI/TS)

- ✓ **2015 Ministerial Decrees**: national methodology & minimum energy requirements; certification uses semi-steady monthly method.
- ✓ **UNI/TS 11300-1/2/3**: calculation of ventilation & infiltration energy; modules for natural/MV/hybrid, night cooling; control efficiency factors (presence, CO₂, RH).
- ✓ No absolute whole-building energy limit; performance is relative to a national reference building.
- ✓ Minimum electrical use for MV systems (energy per m³ moved): ~ 0.25 0.5 Wh·m⁻³ depending on system type.
- ✓ EPBD 2024/1275 (implementation pending) will tighten the energy-comfort-health linkage.



Aldo Fumi, ASSOCLIMA - Marco Simonetti, Politecnico di Torino - Michele Zinzi, ENEA - Luca A. Piterà - AiCARR

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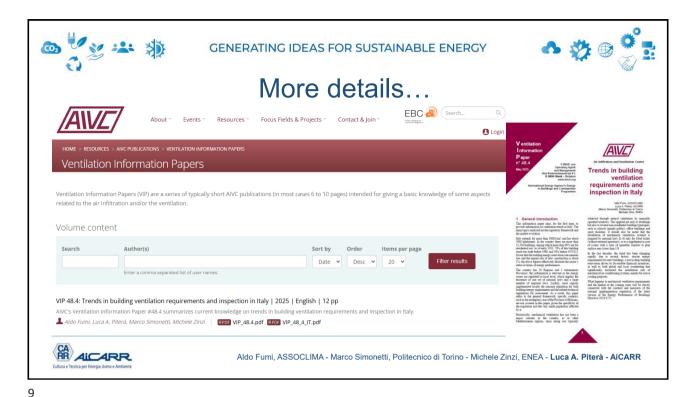
GENERATING IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



Inspection & Hygiene: Obligations and Protocols

- ✓ **Legislative Decree 81/2008**: HVAC systems must be periodically checked, maintained, cleaned, sanitized to protect workers' health; remove hazardous deposits promptly.
- ✓ State-Regions Agreements: 2006: predictive maintenance protocols; planning; hygiene requirements; personnel qualification. In 2013: operational procedure for risk assessment & management of air-handling hygiene; visual & technical inspections; inspection frequency based on prior results.
- ✓ UNI EN 15780: duct cleanliness criteria; cleanliness classes (Low/Medium/High).
- ✓ Indicative limits & frequencies: e.g., 0.075 g·m⁻² PM in clean unlined ducts; scheduled frequencies for AHUs/filters/humidifiers/ducts/terminals; maintenance register required.
- ✓ Today: no legal obligation to verify energy/IAQ/acoustic/thermal performance of MV systems during inspection





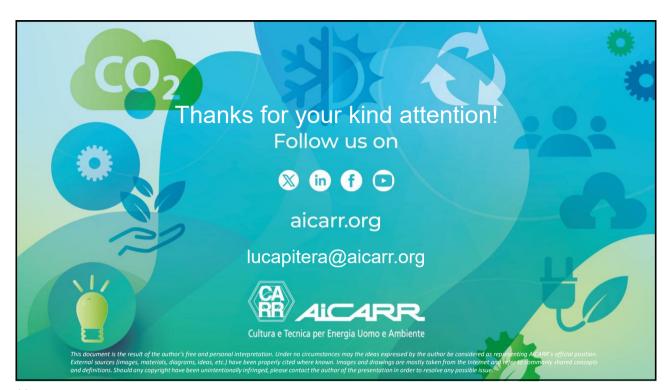




* EPBD IV Towards Healthy and Decarbonised Buildings









Background Information





- France Overview
 - 68 million inhabitants (2023)
 - 37.2 million dwellings (2022), with 50% built before 1974
 - New construction in 2023: 16,059 single-family homes, 205 multi-family buildings, and various offices and educational buildings
- Building Types
 - Houses (79%, avg. 100 m²)
 - Apartments (21%, avg. 64 m²)





Regulatory Framework for Ventilation



- Residential Ventilation Regulations:
 - Began with the "Arrêté du 24 mars 1982"
 - Main requirements:
 - · Continuous air renewal
 - · Air inlets in main rooms and exhausts in humid rooms
 - · Specific air flow rates per room type
 - Reduced flow rates, notably for kitchens (2 stages airflows)
 - 1983: Introduction of demand-controlled ventilation (DCV) systems

- 1	Number	Achievable exhaust air flow rate (m³/h)				
	of main		Bathroo			ilet
	rooms	Kitchen	m with toilet	bathroc m	First one	Others
ı	1	75	15	15	15	15
	2	90	15	15	15	15
	3	105	30	15	15	15
	4	120	30	15	30	15
	5 and more	135	30	15	30	15
	Number of main rooms	n exhaust air flow rates (m³/h)				
		C	Without demand controlled ventilation Total Kitche Exhaust		With demand controlled ventilation	
					Total exhaust	
	1	35	i	20	10)
	2	60)	30	10	
	3 4	75	,	45	15	
ı		90		45	20	
Į	5	10		45	25	
	6	12)	45	30)
ı		13		45	35	





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 - · Specific air flow rates per room type
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 - · In 1983, Introduction of demand-controlled ventilation (DCV) systems
 - NF DTU 68.3: National standard for the design of ventilation systems
 - Cooker-hood are not mandatory, they are assumed not to be needed thanks
 to this two-stages flowrate, usually only recirculation cooker-hood are installed in
 order to comply with EP-requirements on airtightness.





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Regulatory Framework for Ventilation



- Residential Ventilation Regulations: Example
 - A house of 90 m² (2.5 m height), 1 main room, 3 bedrooms (1 master (2 adults), 2 kids), 1 kitchen, 1 bathroom and 1 toilet.
 - Flowrate to extract permanently are:
 - 30 m³/h in the bathroom
 - 30 m³/h in the toilet
 - 45 m³/h in the kitchen and it must be possible to reach 120m³/h during cooking events (1 hour per day in average)
 - In case of DCV the minimum flowrate can be reduced, according the values given in the "Avis techniques" agreements for each size of dwelling. This induces a reduction of 30 to 50% of the average flowrate with most of the systems.



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Non

Regulatory Framework for Ventilation

- Non-Residential Regulations:
 - Based on 2 regulations :
 - Work Code (1979)
 - "Reglement Sanitaire Départemental Type" (RSDT)
 - Requirements for both general rooms and rooms with specific pollution sources (toilets, etc.)
 - Ventilation can be stopped; the modulation of flowrate is allowed and recommended by the EP Regulation
 - No standard to describe the design and installation of non-residential ventilation systems.
 EN standards apply but not mandatory

Kind of enclosure	Q _{min} (m³/h) per occupant			
	Smoking not allowed	Smoking allowed		
School	15	-		
High-school and university	18	25		
Sleeping spaces (dormitory, etc.)	18	25		
Office rooms	18	25		
Meeting rooms	18	30		
Shops	22	30		
Bar and restaurant	22	30		
Gymnasium (per athlete)	25	30		
Swimming pool	22	30		
Gymnasium (per onlooker)	18	30		





Regulatory Framework for Ventilation

- Non-Residential Regulations: Examples
 - In a class room of 50 m² with 25 students and 1 teacher
 - the flowrate depends from the age of the kids
 - from 15 m³/h for the youngest to 18m³/h in high schools and universities,
 - as a worker the teacher shall have 25 m³/h
 - So the total for a class with young children is 15*25+25*1=400 m³/h.
 - · The installation of a ventilation system is not mandatory if the area of the windows in the room is sufficient.
 - => few existing schools are equipped with mechanical ventilation
 - In an office of 12 m² with 1 occupant: 25 m³/h





Energy Requirements (RE2020)





- Energy Performance Regulation new buildings
 - RE2020 sets guidelines for low-energy buildings, replacing RT2012
 - Focuses on air flow rates, energy use, heat recovery, and airtightness
 - DCV Systems are promoted
 - · Assessment of energy saving through Avis Techniques
- Energy Efficiency Measures existing buildings
 - "MaPrimeRenov" subsidizes if MVHR systems
 - EP certificates now include ventilation system (general) information

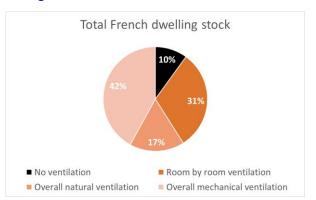




Ventilation Systems in the French existing stock for residential buildings



- Common Systems for new residential systems
 - Centralized mechanical exhaust systems dominate
 - Humidity-based DCV systems are prevalent in new residential buildings (>90%)
 - MVHR in only 3-4% of new dwellings
- Existing Stock (Insee 2017)



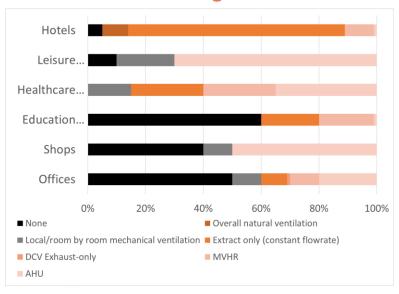


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Non

Ventilation Systems in the French existing stock for non-residential buildings Hotels Leisure...



AIR.H, Installation de ventilation dans lexistant: enjeux et propositions d'amélioration à travers les diagnostics-Report for ADEME, (2007).

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Ventilation Inspection Trends

- Buildings:
 - High non-compliance rate: 50% of ventilation systems do not meet regulatory standards, 70% for houses
- Residential Buildings:
 - New Inspection Requirement in the new RE2020 (EP) Regulation
 - · Mandatory inspection by certified inspectors for residential buildings
 - Focus on visual inspection, system performance, and airflow/pressures measurement
 - · A new database



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Ventilation Inspection Trends

Non Res.

- Non-Residential Buildings:
 - No mandatory inspection, but protocols exist
- New EPBD requirements
 - Mandatory inspection of systems when heating and cooling power exceed 70kW (every 5 years) or 290kW (every 3 years)
 - States have 2 years to implement this requirement!.. By March 2026

Article 23

Inspections

1. Member States shall lay down the necessary measures to establish regular inspections of the accessible parts of heating systems, verifilation systems and air-conditioning systems, including any combination thereof, with an effective rated original of over 10 kH, the effective rating of the system shall be based on the sum of the rated output of the heat generations and cooling generators.

2. Member States may establish separate inspection schemes for the inspections of residential and non-residential systems.

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 The impection statu incutor the assessment of the generator of generators, circulation pumps and, where appropriate components of ventilation systems, air and water distribution systems, fordoring balancing systems and control system Member States may include in the inspection schemes any additional building systems identified under Annex I.

Where a ventilation system is installed, its sizing and its capabilities to optimise its performance under typical operating conditions relevant for the specific and current use of the building shall also be assessed.





Challenges and Innovations

- Performance-Based Regulation (coming soon...)
 - · Moving from prescriptive to performance-based systems
 - Targets for CO₂ levels, humidity, and proxi pollutants
 - · Promotes innovative systems beyond humidity-based DCV
 - (See our presentation in dedicated topical session)

COVID-19 Impact

- Increased interest in air quality monitoring (e.g., CO₂ sensors in schools)
- The ministry asked HCSP (high council for public health) for guidance on how the regulation shall change following lessons learned with COVID (published in 2024): HCSP recommends:
 - Modify codes air flow rates to match the "average" of 16798-1 (a big ×2 on schools)
 - Bring existing buildings with or without ventilation systems up to these levels, and do more airing by then
 - · implement demand-controlled systems
 - implement monitoring and therefore establish IAQ criteria for this monitoring....
- => We hope this will at last bring a new regulation for Non-residential!



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Conclusion

Key Takeaways:

- France has a strong regulatory framework for ventilation in residential buildings but faces challenges with non-compliance and outdated nonresidential regulations
- In non residential buildings like existing schools, air renewal is still mainly based on the opening of windows
- RE2020 emphasizes energy efficiency in ventilation systems, with mandatory inspections newly introduced for residential buildings
- Innovation is expected with the shift towards performance-based regulations

Future Outlook:

 Expected review of non-residential regulations and continued innovation in ventilation technologies







- AIVC VIP n° 48.2 published in November 2024
 - R. Jobert, G. Guyot, Detailed analysis of regulatory compliance controls of 1287 dwellings ventilation systems, in: Proc. 34th AIVC–3rd TightVent–2nd Cool Roofs'– 1st Venticool Conf., Athens, Greece, 2013
 - V. Leprince, B. Poirier, G. Guyot, How to create a performance-based regulation on ventilation the French Experience, in: Copenhagen, Denmark, 2023.
 - R. Jobert, A. Litvak, G. Guyot, L. Deleersnyder, Presentation of a national consultative body on ventilation issues: actors, working groups and projects overview, in: Smart Vent. Build., Juan les Pins, France
 - Mélois, A.B., Moujalled, B., Guyot, G., Leprince, V., 2019. Improving building envelope knowledge from analysis of 219,000 certified on-site air leakage measurements in France. Building and Environment. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2019.05.023



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Thank you for your attention !





Requirements on IAQ in buildings with sensitive populations or those exposed over long periods

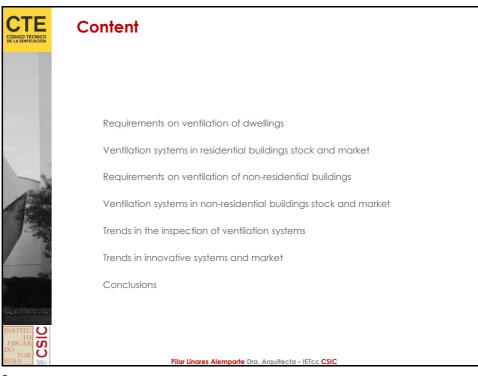
- Day-care centers, schools, high schools, facilities for the disabled and juvenile detention centers (2010 updated the 1st of January 2023)
- Imposes the monitoring of IAQ at some specific point of the building life.
- Pollutants measured are CO₂, benzene and formaldehyde
- In case of non-conformity an action plan shall be set.

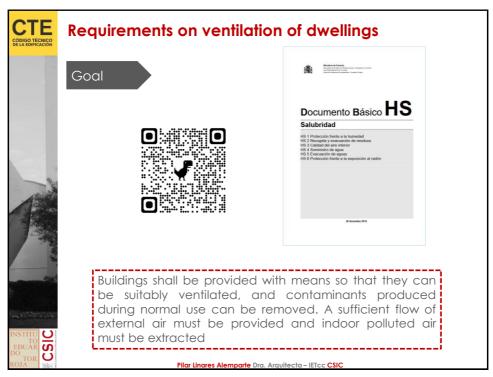


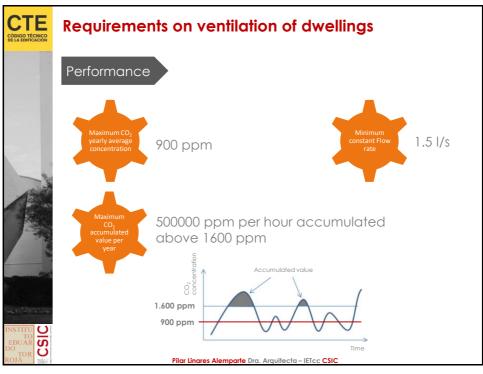


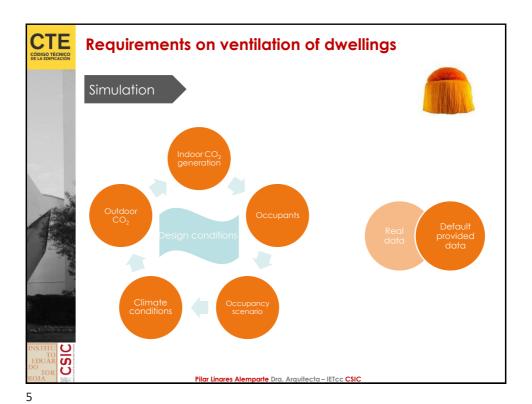
Trends in Building Ventilation Requirements and Inspection in France

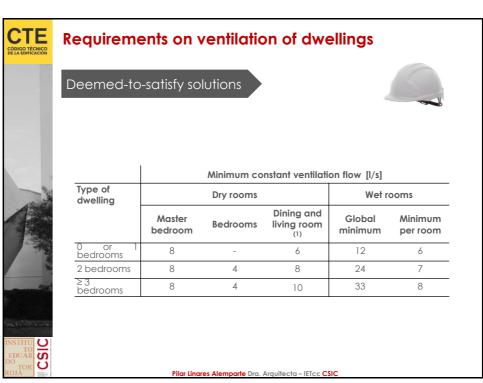


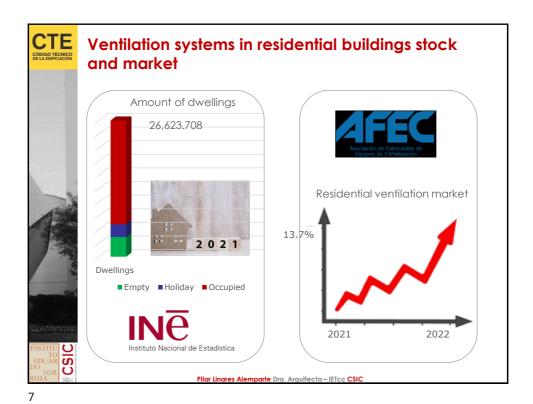


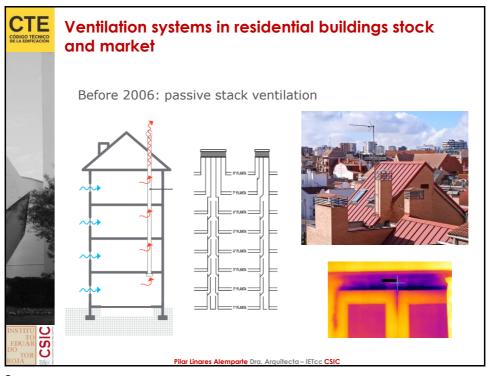


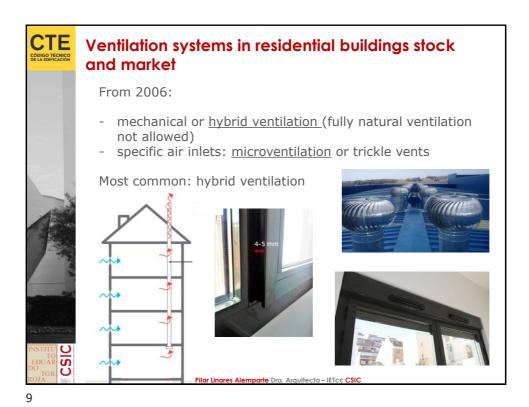




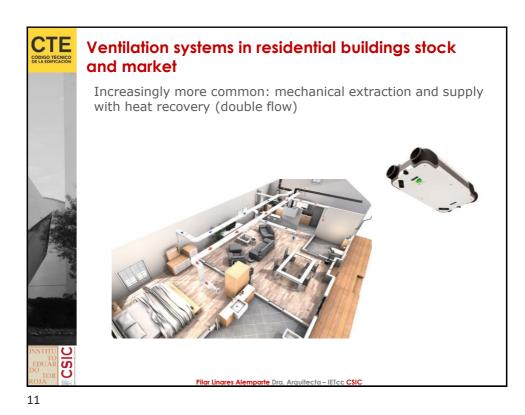


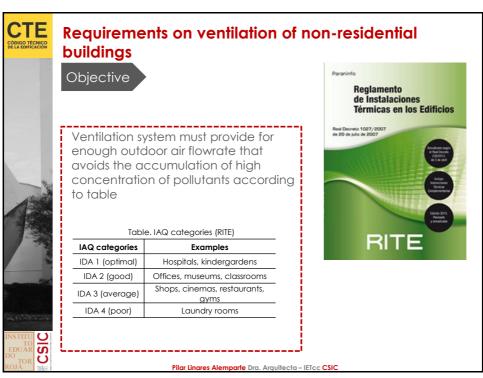














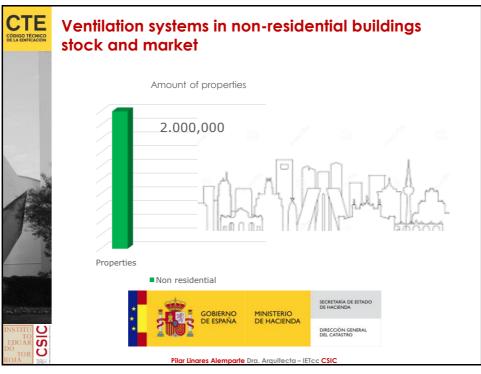
Requirements on ventilation of non-residential buildings

Verification methods

5 methods:

- airflow per occupant indirect method
- airflow per net floor area indirect method
- perceived air quality direct method
- CO₂ concentration direct method
- dilution method.

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Ventilation systems in non-residential buildings stock and market

From 2021 to 2022:



- the market in air distribution and diffusion increased by 19.7%
- the air handling units and ventilation units market also increased by approximately 10%
- the industrial/tertiary ventilation market increased 17.5%
- the residential and tertiary market represent 20.3% of the total revenue in 2022 from HVAC products

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Paraninfo Reglamento de Instalaciones Térmicas en los Edificios Basi Decreta 1027 / 8007 de 20 de julio de 2007

Trends in the inspection of ventilation systems

- Initial and periodic inspections
- Authorised companies or inspection entities
- Every 4 years
- Comprehensive every 15 years

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Trends in innovative systems and market

Innovative systems must demonstrate compliance with the essential requirements of CTE by **technical approval**











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Conclusions

IAQ regulations in Spain are performance-based

The IAQ requirement in dwellings is identified in terms of CO2 concentration

Performance-based regulations allow the use of innovative, energy efficient systems

The requirements may be met through simulation or deemed-to-satisfy solutions

Ventilation market in Spain is strong and keeps increasing

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