READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

ANSI/AIHA Z9.5 (laboratory ventilation)

American National Standards Institute / American Industrial Hygiene Association

ANSI/AIHA Z9.5 covers how a laboratory is ventilated and how its fume hoods are meant to perform. It addresses the airflow that keeps contaminants out of the breathing zone, the way a hood is operated, and the monitoring that tells an occupant it is working. On a walk it shows up as the questions asked at a hood face and at the exhaust it feeds.

What it covers

- Containment performance at the hood face, verified against the hood's airflow monitor rather than by eye
- Sash operation and working height, and the alarms that flag a sash left open too far
- Airflow monitors and low-flow alarms at each hood
- Exhaust routing and discharge that keeps captured air from re-entering the building
- Make-up air and room pressurization that let the hoods pull what they are rated to pull
- Annual certification of each hood, performed and signed by the certifier

What a field inspection looks at

- Observe and photograph the hood's own airflow monitor reading rather than inventing a face-velocity number; the monitor and the certification tell the story RTI never certifies itself.
- Sash position photographed as found, with any low-sash alarm state captured in the same frame.
- Airflow monitor and alarm shown functioning, not just present, with the indication legible.
- Exhaust path documented from hood to discharge so nothing dumps back near an intake.
- The current certification sticker photographed at the hood, dated and attributed to the certifier who signed it.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.