



# *New Fan Efficiency Requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES 90.1-2019*

AMCA *insite*™ Webinar | AMCA International | [www.amca.org](http://www.amca.org)

## Scott Arnold

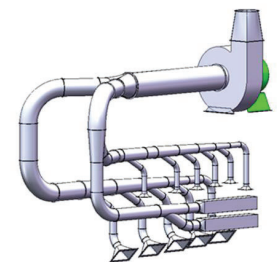
Content Manager, AMCA International

***Webinar Moderator***

- Joined AMCA in 2017
- Leads development and publication of technical articles, white papers and educational materials.
- Editor-in-chief of the award-winning *AMCA inmotion* magazine.



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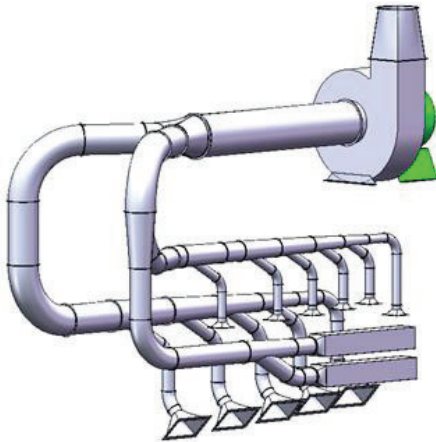
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atmosphere is everything



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## ***New Fan Efficiency Requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES 90.1-2019***

### **Purpose and Learning Objectives**

The purpose of this presentation is to inform participants about AMCA International, the AMCA Certified Ratings Program (CRP), and the Fan Energy Index (FEI) Metric that is replacing Fan Efficiency Grade (FEG) in energy codes, standards, and regulations.

At the end of this presentation you will be able to:

1. Explain why FEI is replacing FEG in model energy codes and standards, including ASHRAE 90.1-2019 and ASHRAE 189.1-2020.
2. Apply FEI for sizing and selecting fans for Constant Speed (CS) and Variable Air Volume (VAV) systems.
3. Describe how to find FEI ratings from manufacturers.

## *TODAY'S PRESENTERS*

- **Tim Mathson, AMCA Principal Engineer**
- **Jeff Boldt, Managing Principal and ASHRAE Fellow**
- **Michael Ivanovich, AMCA Sr. Director, Global Affairs**

## Michael Ivanovich

### Senior Director, Global Affairs AMCA International

- Joined AMCA July 2011
- Voting member of ASHRAE 90.1 Mechanical Subcommittee
- Represents AMCA on codes, standards and regulations
- Coordinates advocacy in N. America, Asia, Europe, and Middle East

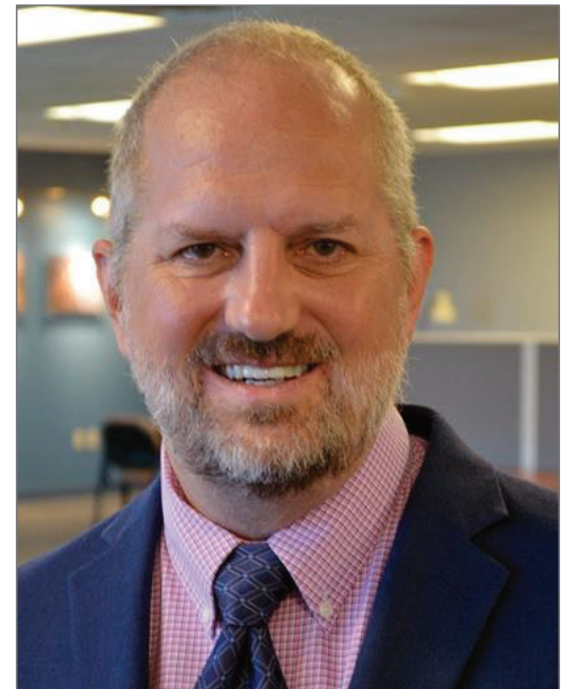




## Jeff Boldt

PE, FASHRAE, LEED® AP, HBDP, FPE

- Managing Principal – Director of Innovation & Quality at IMEG Corp. with 39 years experience
- Chair ASHRAE SSPC-90.1 Mechanical Subcommittee
- Former Chair ASHRAE 189.1 Acoustics Group
- Member ASHRAE Technical Committees 2.6, 3.6, 5.2, & 8.6



## Tim Mathson

### Principal Engineer, AMCA International

- Joined AMCA 2019
- 30 years as a fan designer/engineer at Greenheck
- Chaired AMCA 208 Committee, Fan Engineering Committee
- Member of ASHRAE TC 5.1



# Fan Energy Index Basics

Tim Mathson



# AMCA Is...

- Air Movement and Control Association International
- Not-for-profit
- Established 1917 with six member companies in USA
- Now global with almost 400 companies
- More than half of AMCA members are outside North America

# The AMCA Mission:

*To advance the knowledge of air systems  
and uphold industry integrity on behalf of  
AMCA members worldwide.*



**Advocate**



**Certify**



**Educate**

# FEI Outline

- FEI Basics (Tim)
- FEI in ASHRAE 90.1 and 189.1 (Jeff)
- Why Specify Certified FEI Ratings (Jeff)
- FEI in CV and VAV Systems (Mike)
- AMCA Resources for FEI (Mike)



# Why Change from FEG?

- Origin of FEI is a now-stalled USA federal regulation
- Problems with Fan Efficiency Grade (FEG)
  - Not wire-to-air
    - Bare-shaft fan only
    - No inclusion of motors, drives
  - Peak total efficiency only
    - Needed a selection window applied by designers
      - “Fans must be selected to operate within 10 percentage points of peak total efficiency”*
    - Cannot apply such a window for an equipment/appliance regulation

# FEI Fixes FEG Problems

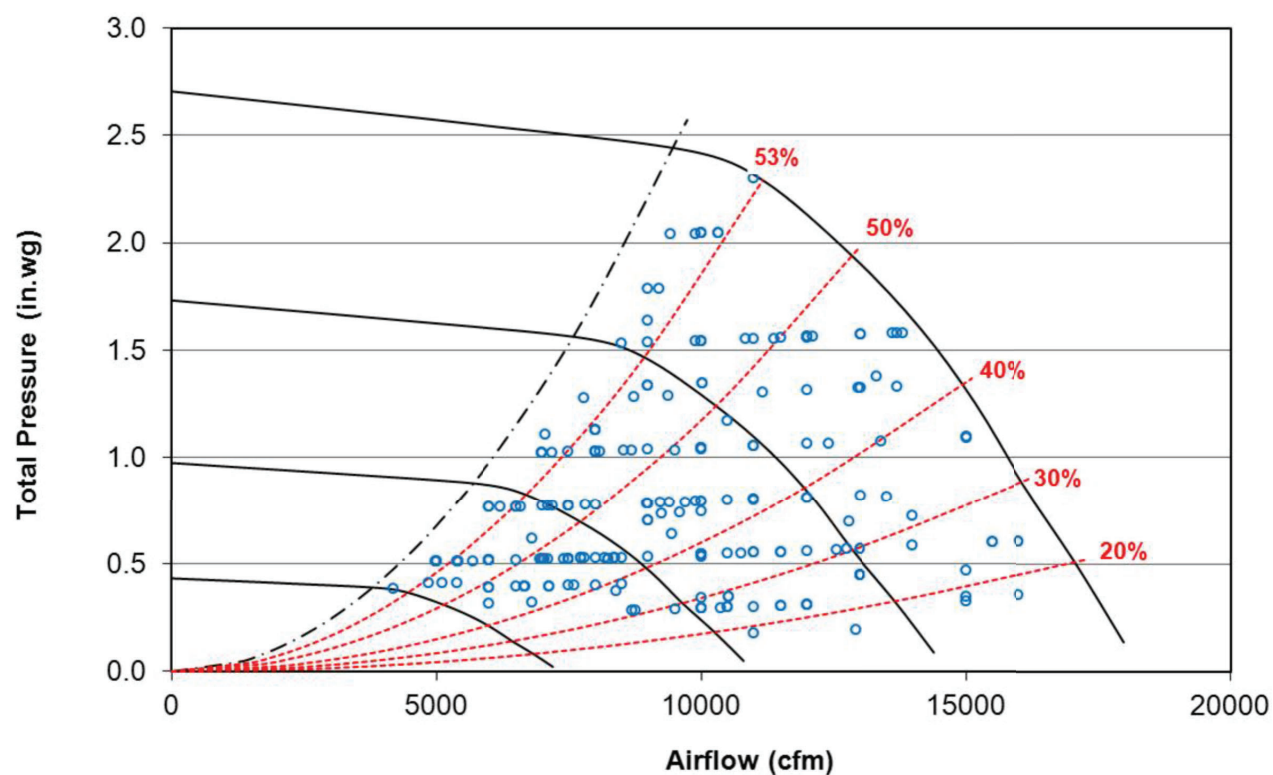
- FEI fixes all these issues:
  - Wire to air – covers fan, transmission, motor, speed control
  - Considers off-peak fan efficiency
  - Static or total pressure, as appropriate
  - Includes fans testable to:
    - Most commercial/industrial fans: AMCA 210 / ISO 5801
    - Jet fans: AMCA 250 / ISO 13350
    - Induced flow fans: AMCA 260

# Fan Selection

- Fan efficiency is highly dependent on where the fan is operating on the fan curve.
- Fans are typically selected to provide a designated duty point.
  - Airflow
  - Pressure
  - Air Density (sea level vs. high elevation)
- Turns out, help is needed for selecting fans.

# Square Inline Fan – Size 30

295 Actual Fan Selections



# Benefits of FEI

## **Clarity**

- FEI includes effect of losses from fans, motors, and drives
- FEI rating allows instant identification of compliance

## **Flexibility**

- Fan selections allow variety of fan types, sizes, motors, and drives
- Facilitates consideration of budget, acoustics, form factor, etc.

## **Simplicity**

- Intuitive metric that directly reflects power consumed by the fan

## **Greater energy savings**

- Net result is greater energy savings and lower lifecycle cost

# Wire-to-Air Metric



**Output Power (Air Power)**  
***"Airflow x Pressure"***

**Duty Point:**  
***A specific combination  
of airflow and pressure  
the fan is producing.***

**Fan Electrical  
Input Power**  
***"FEP"***



## FEI – Fan Energy Index

Defined in AMCA 208:

$$FEI = \frac{\text{Reference Fan Electrical Input Power}}{\text{Actual Fan Electrical Input Power}}$$

$$FEI = \frac{FEP_{ref}}{FEP}$$

- $FEP_{ref}$  and FEP calculated at the same airflow and pressure.
- FEI is a relative measure of power required for a given duty point – relative to the *Reference Fan*.

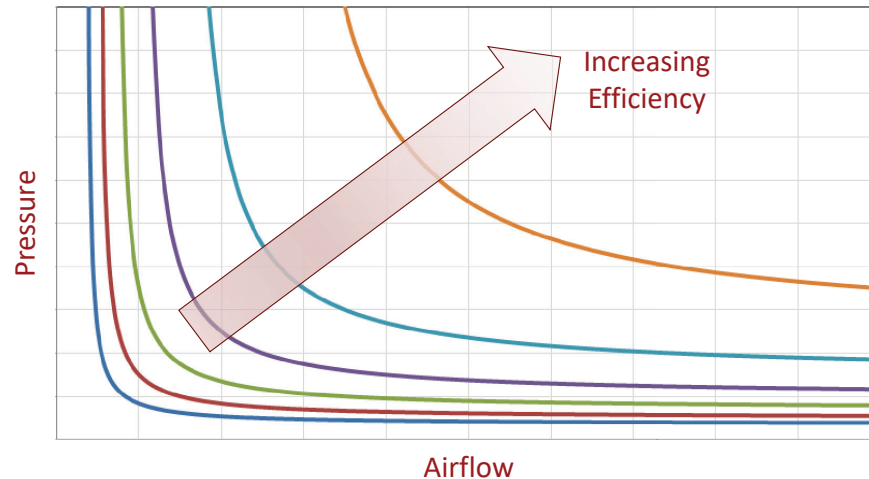
# The Reference Fan

Think of the Reference fan as a “*Reasonably Efficient Fan*”...

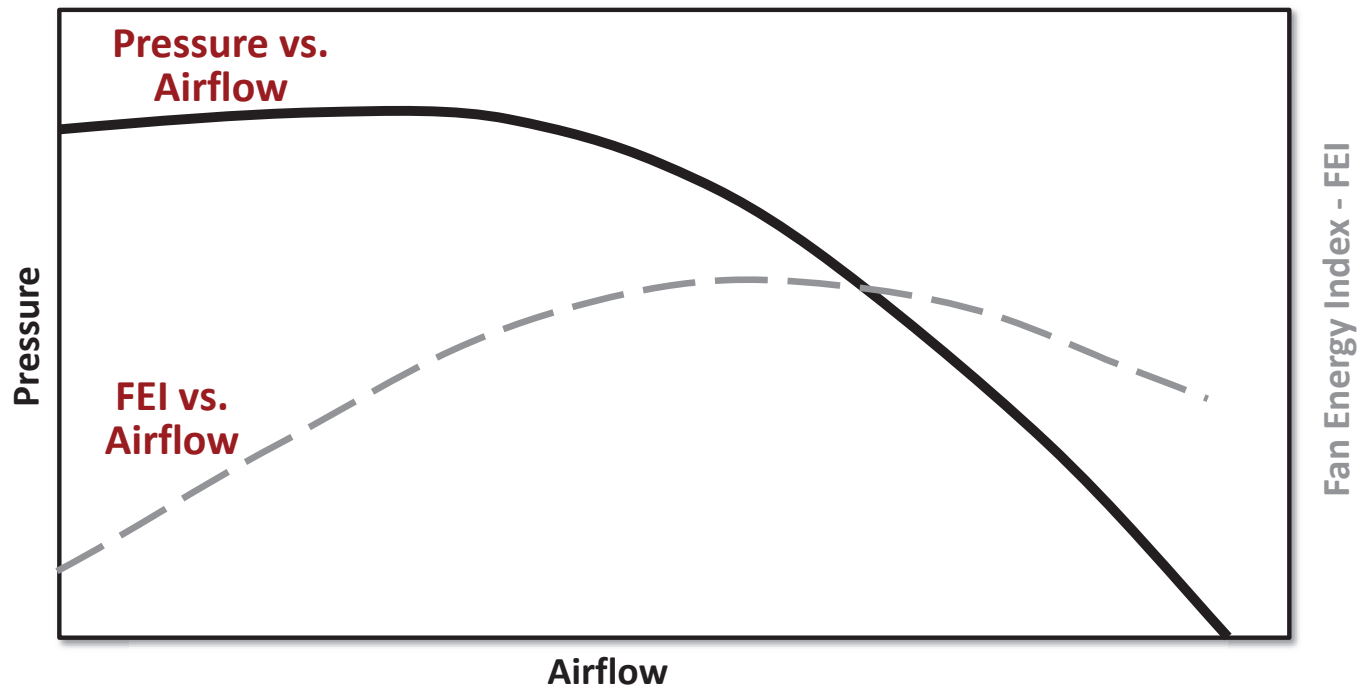
- Established by DOE and the fan industry
- Later documented in AMCA 208

*Empirical function of fan efficiency vs. airflow and pressure:*

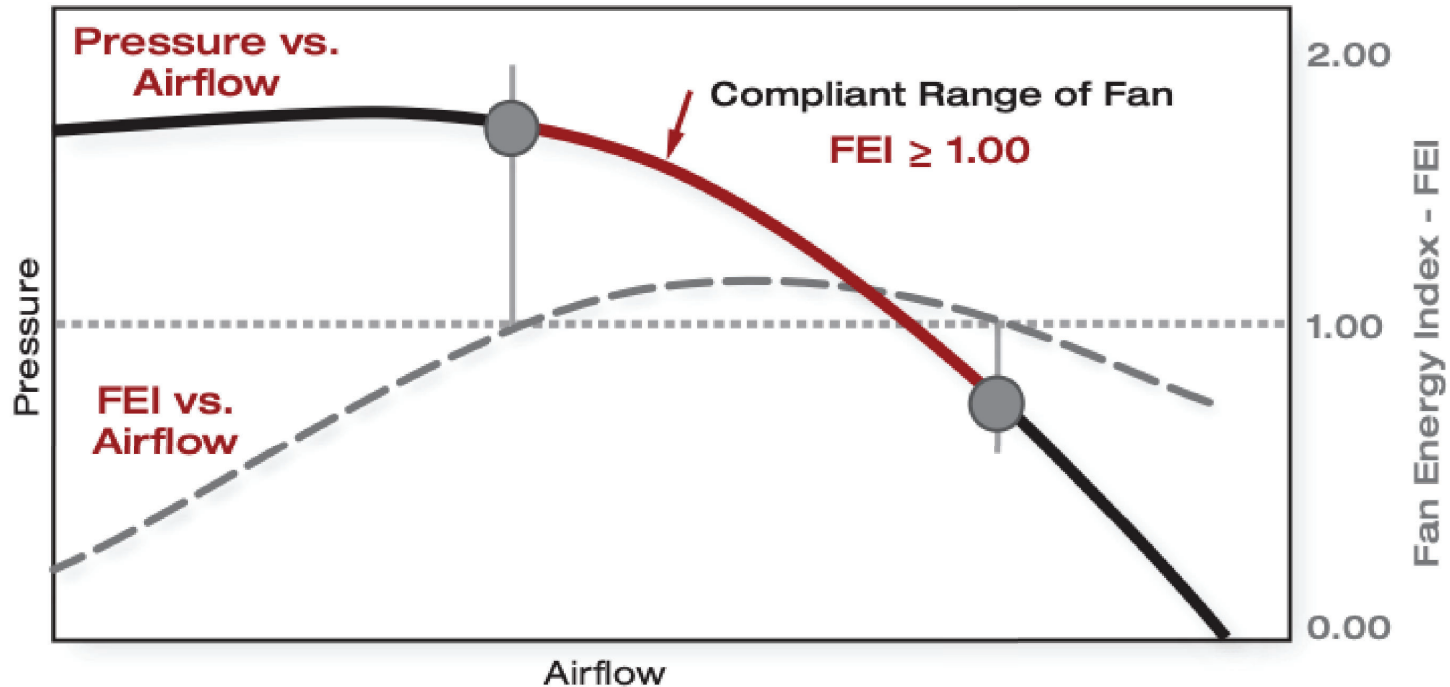
1. Independent of:
  - Fan type
  - Fan size
  - Motor type
  - Belt or direct drive
2. Fixed in time



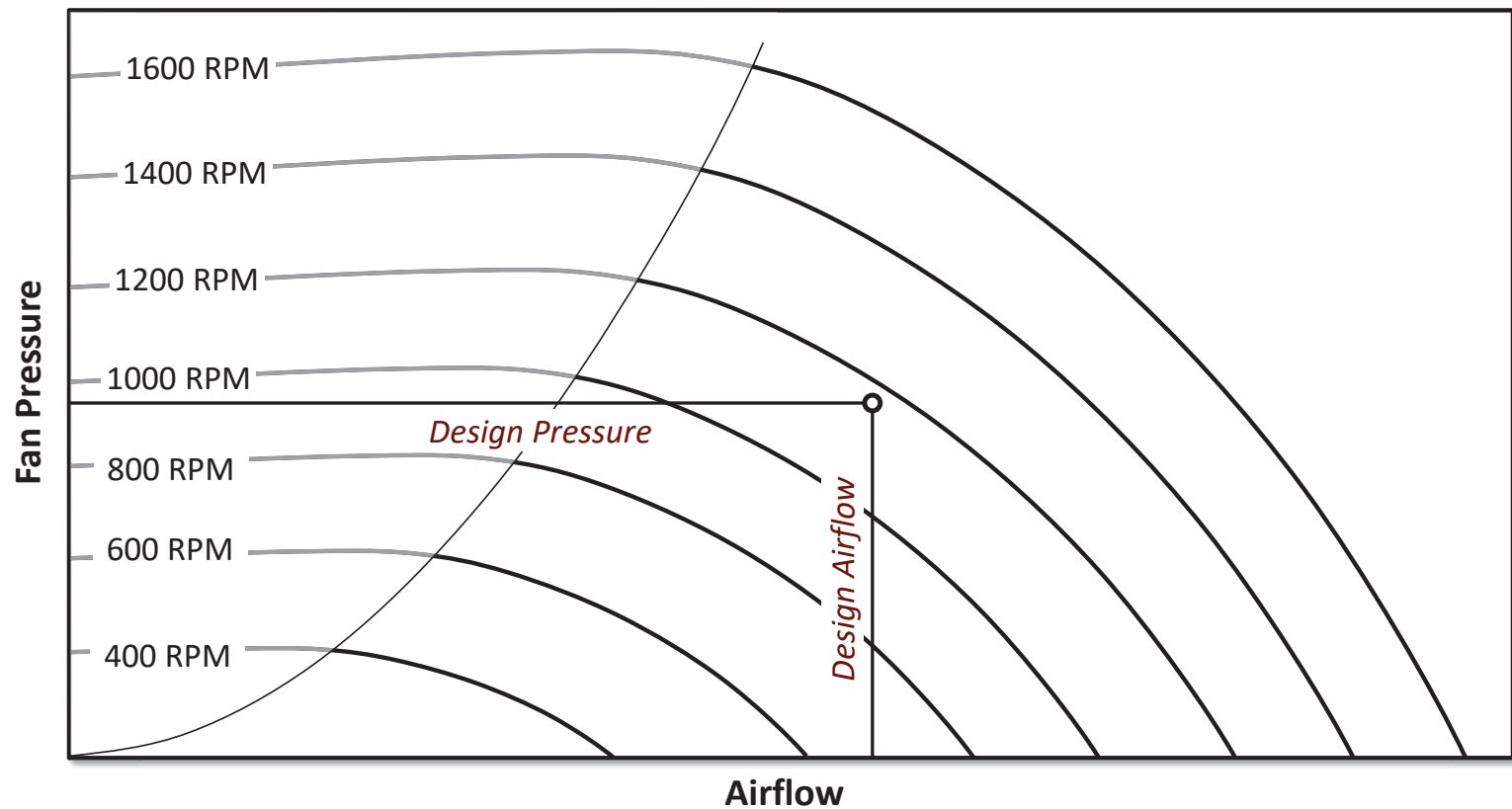
# FEI is Defined at Every Duty Point



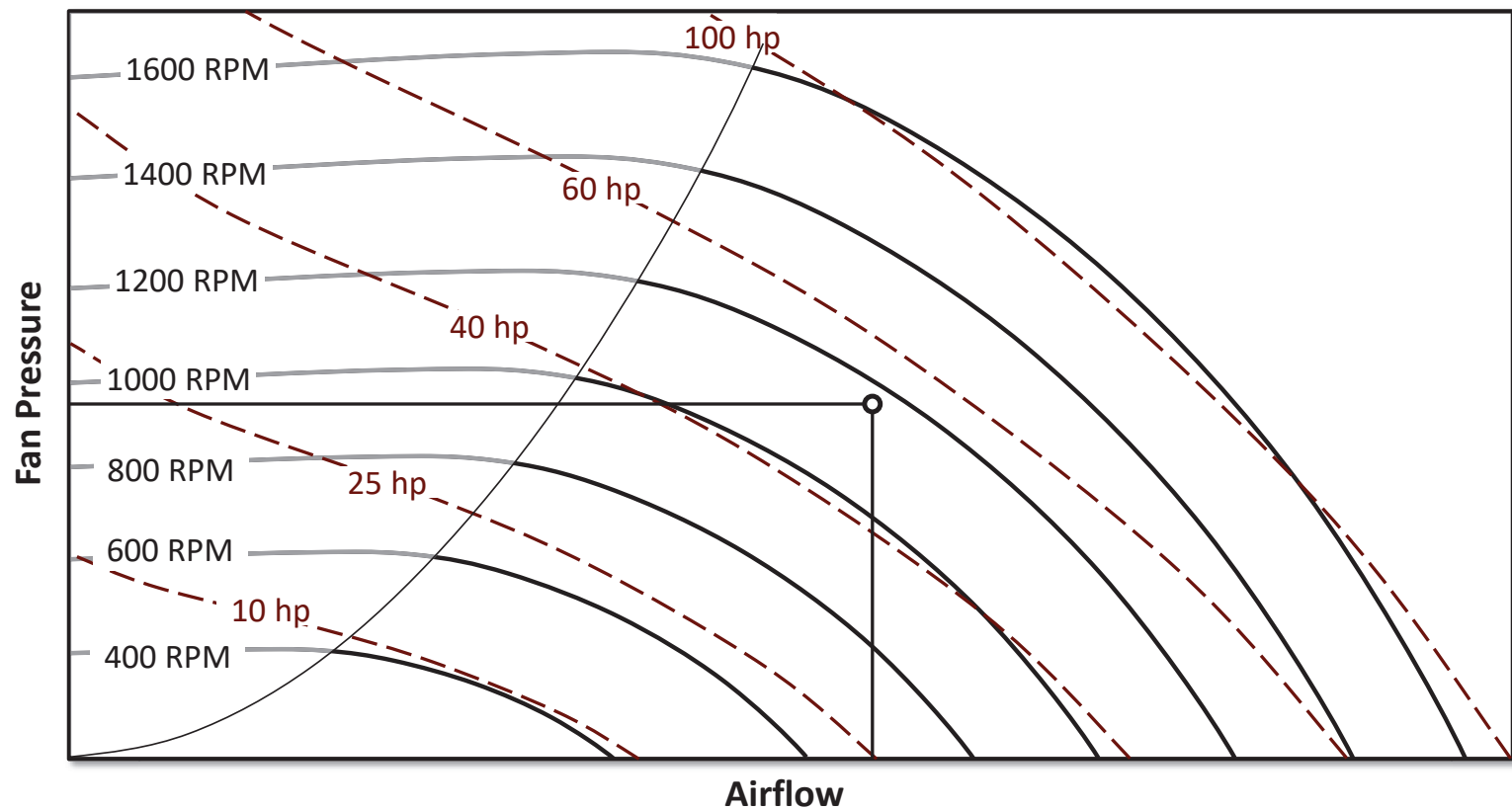
## FEI $\geq 1.00$ Defines Compliant Range for Selection



# Fan Selection Using Multiple Speed Fan Curves

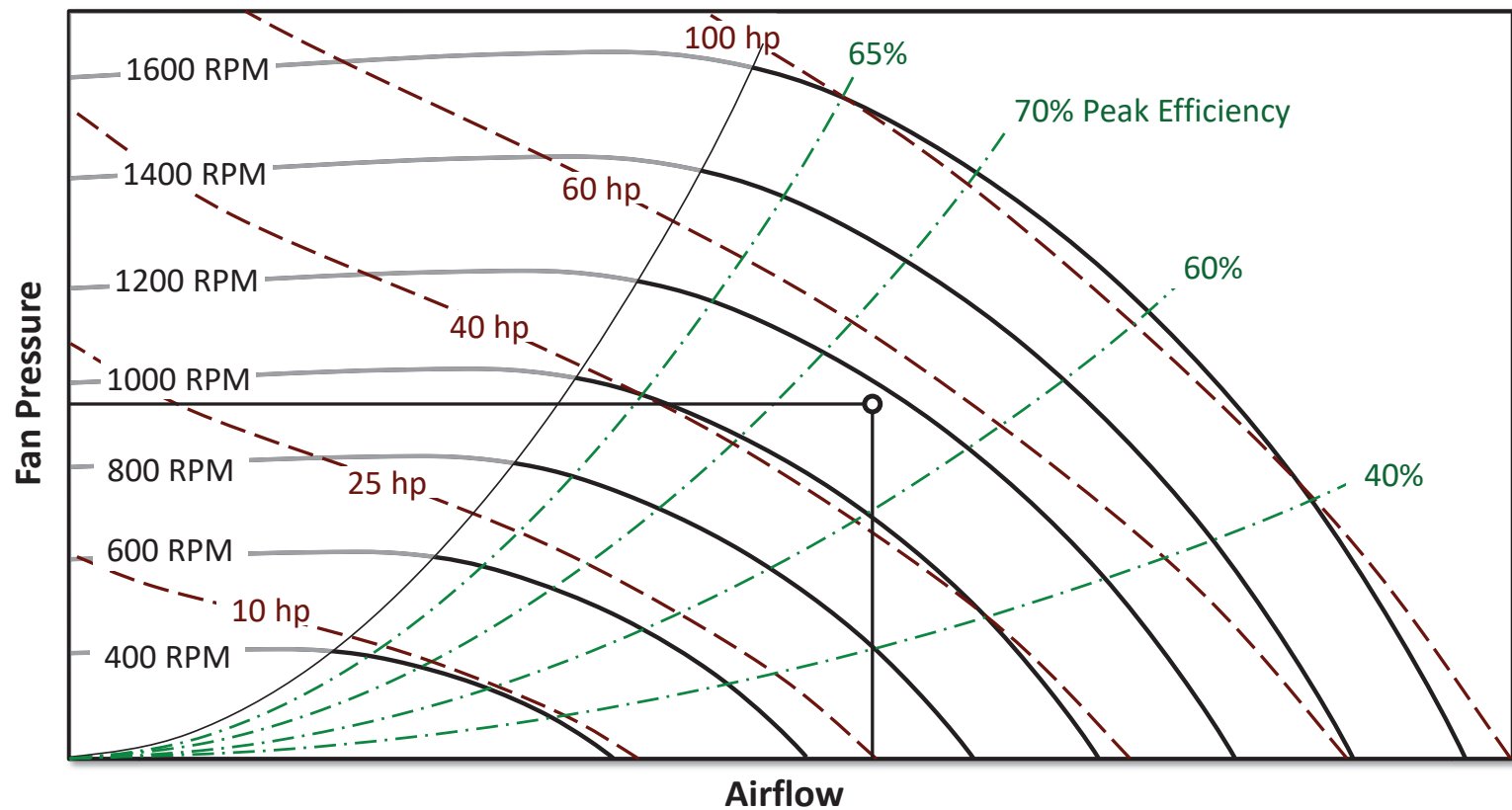


# Fan Selection Using Multiple Speed Fan Curves

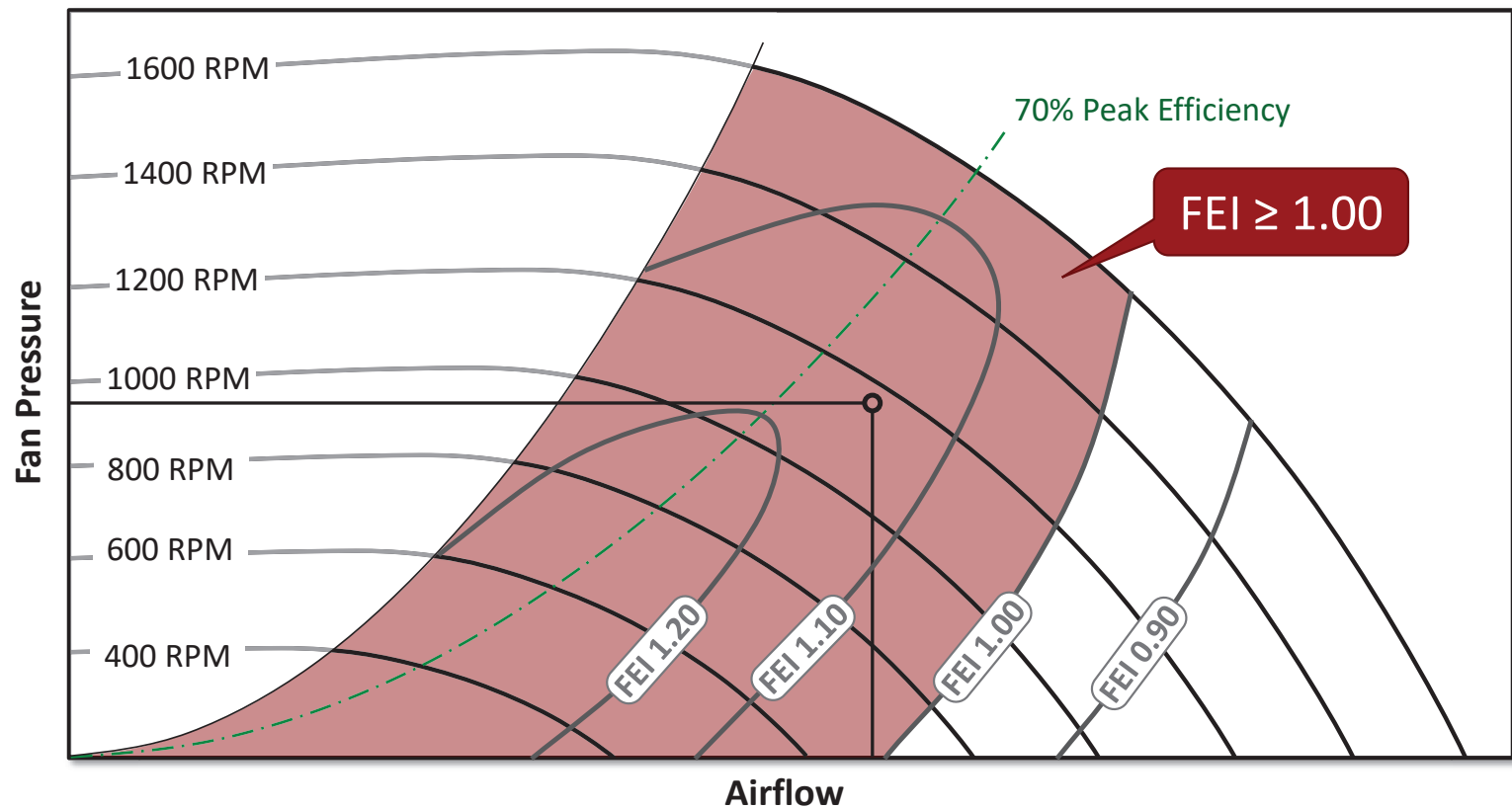




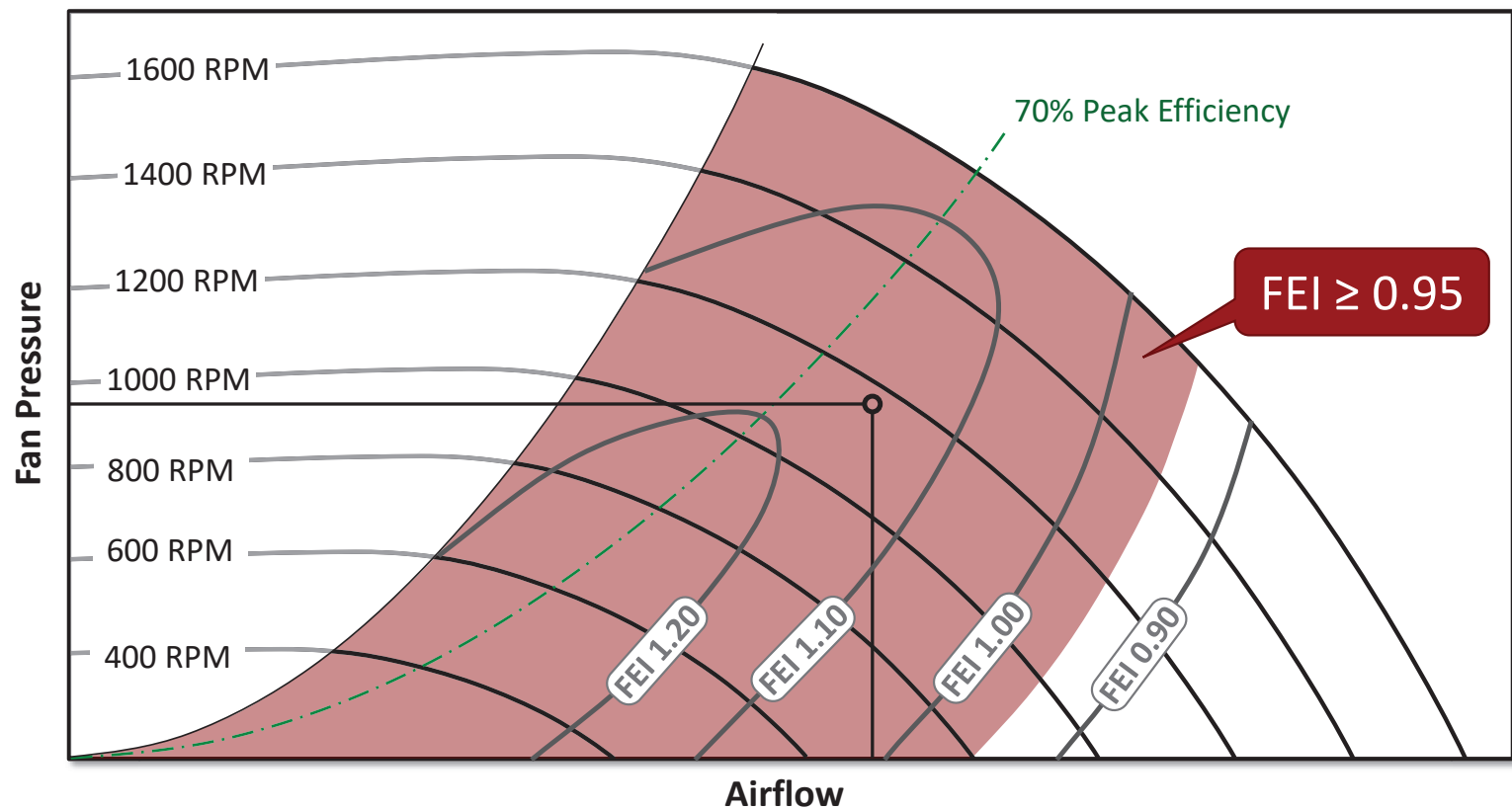
# Fan Selection Using Multiple Speed Fan Curves



# Fan Selection Using Multiple Speed Fan Curves



# Fan Selection Using Multiple Speed Fan Curves



# FEI Improves Fan Selections

Enables comparisons of:

- Different fan types
- Different fan sizes
- Different motor and drive combinations

*All at the same design duty point!*

## FEI Examples – Stand Alone Fans

Utility set:

- 10,000 cfm at 2.0" wg static pressure

Sidewall prop fan:

- 20,000 cfm at 0.25" wg static pressure

# Utility Set

amca INTERNATIONAL

10,000 cfm at 2.0" Ps

**Product Type**  
Model:

**Air Performance Settings**  
Altitude above sea level: 0 ft  
Fan inlet pressure: 0.000 in WC  
Fan inlet temperature: 70 F  
Design temperature: 70 F  
Relative humidity:  
Inlet density: 0.0750 lb/ft³

**Selection Criteria**  
Volumetric flow:  cfm  
Static pressure:  in WC  
Drive method:

**Performance Modifiers**  
Size:     
Outlet velocity:   
Speed:   
Power:

Model	Size	CI	Dia (%)	Width (%)	% of Peak	Drive Type	RPM	Max RPM	Std Pwr (BHP)	Op Pwr (BHP)	Out Vel (FPM)	Stat Eff (%)	Tot Eff (%)	In LwA	Out LwA	Rel Cost	FEI	FEP (KW)
BCV	200	II	100	100	24.42	BD	2,323	2,490	10.52	10.52	4348	29.98	47.61	99	N/A	0.41	0.81	8.88
BCV	222	II	100	100	34.34	BD	1,761	2,238	8.00	8.00	3509	39.43	54.53	94	N/A	0.55	0.95	6.77
BCV	245	I	100	100	45.33	BD	1,392	1,577	6.50	6.50	2899	48.50	61.18	90	N/A	0.50	1.07	5.59
BCV	270	I	100	100	56.72	BD	1,110	1,397	5.42	5.42	2387	58.13	68.43	88	N/A	0.61	1.20	4.71
BCV	300	I	100	100	71.14	BD	892	1,257	4.72	4.72	1934	66.81	74.59	86	N/A	0.74	1.31	4.11
BCV	330	I	100	100	83.61	BD	748	1,143	4.35	4.35	1597	72.49	78.25	84	N/A	0.85	1.38	3.79
BCV	365	I	100	100	96.58	BD	618	995	4.10	4.10	1305	76.87	80.95	76	N/A	1.00	1.43	3.58
BCV	402	I	100	100	99.91	BD	551	903	4.20	4.20	1074	75.05	77.75	76	N/A	1.73	1.39	3.67

AMCA Licensed for Sound and Air Performance and Fan Efficiency Grade (FEG). Power rating (BHP) does not include belt drive losses.

# Sidewall Prop Fan

- 20,000 cfm at 0.25" static pressure

Model	Drive	Volume CFM	SP inwc	Power HP	Motor HP	RPM	Max (Fan) RPM	OVEL fpm	TSPD fpm	SE	TE	Pts From PeakTE	FEG	FEI	UnitWT lbs
36XLWH	Belt	20000	.25	3.51	5.00	825	895	2715	7883	24%	68%	0%	71	1.05	195
42XLWH	Belt	20000	.25	2.66	3.00	555	870	2006	6175	32%	64%	0%	67	1.37	246
48XLWH	Belt	20000	.25	2.11	3.00	432	650	1558	5471	40%	65%	3%	71	1.70	294
54XLWH	Belt	20000	.25	1.98	2.00	330	611	1234	4686	43%	59%	9%	71	1.81	313
60XLWH	Belt	20000	.25	1.90	2.00	259	550	1001	4085	45%	56%	15%	75	1.88	338
42XMWH	Belt	20000	.25	2.56	3.00	653	821	2006	7265	33%	66%	3%	71	1.42	245
48XMWH	Belt	20000	.25	1.96	2.00	491	726	1558	6218	43%	70%	0%	71	1.82	269
54XMWH	Belt	20000	.25	1.86	2.00	356	558	1234	5056	46%	63%	7%	71	1.92	320
60XMWH	Belt	20000	.25	1.46	1.50	299	530	1001	4716	58%	73%	2%	80	2.40	305



# Sidewall Prop Fan

- 10,000 cfm at 0.25" static pressure

Model	Drive	Volume CFM	SP inwc	Power HP	Motor HP	RPM	Max (Fan) RPM	OVEL fpm	TSPD fpm	SE	TE	Pts From PeakTE	FEG	FEI	UnitWT lbs
24XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	2.16	3.00	1380	1398	2993	8806	20%	64%	1%	67	0.88	147
30XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.34	1.50	768	1061	1939	6132	32%	62%	1%	67	1.38	118
36XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.07	1.50	550	895	1357	5255	40%	59%	9%	71	1.70	142
42XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.16	1.50	421	870	1003	4684	37%	47%	17%	67	1.58	188
48XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.32	1.50	373	650	779	4723	33%	37%	30%	71	1.40	228
54XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.30	1.50	283	611	617	4019	33%	36%	32%	71	1.41	272
60XLWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.61	2.00	247	550	500	3896	26%	28%	43%	75	1.16	338
30XMWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.24	1.50	988	1175	1939	7889	35%	67%	1%	71	1.49	121
36XMWH	Belt	10000	.25	.919	1	627	948	1357	5991	47%	69%	3%	-	1.95	142
42XMWH	Belt	10000	.25	.861	1	444	821	1003	4940	50%	63%	6%	-	2.07	188
48XMWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.05	1.50	394	726	779	4989	41%	47%	22%	71	1.73	234
54XMWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.13	1.50	296	558	617	4203	38%	42%	28%	71	1.62	279
60XMWH	Belt	10000	.25	1.03	1.50	261	530	500	4116	42%	45%	30%	80	1.77	305



# Benefits of FEI

## **Clarity**

- FEI includes effect of losses from fans, motors, and drives
- FEI rating allows instant identification of compliance

## **Flexibility**

- Fan selections allow variety of fan types, sizes, motors, and drives
- Facilitates consideration of budget, acoustics, form factor, etc.

## **Simplicity**

- Intuitive metric that directly reflects power consumed by the fan

## **Greater energy savings**

- Net result is greater energy savings and lower lifecycle cost

# FEI in Codes, Standards and Regulations

Jeff Boldt



# FEI in Codes, Standards & Regulations

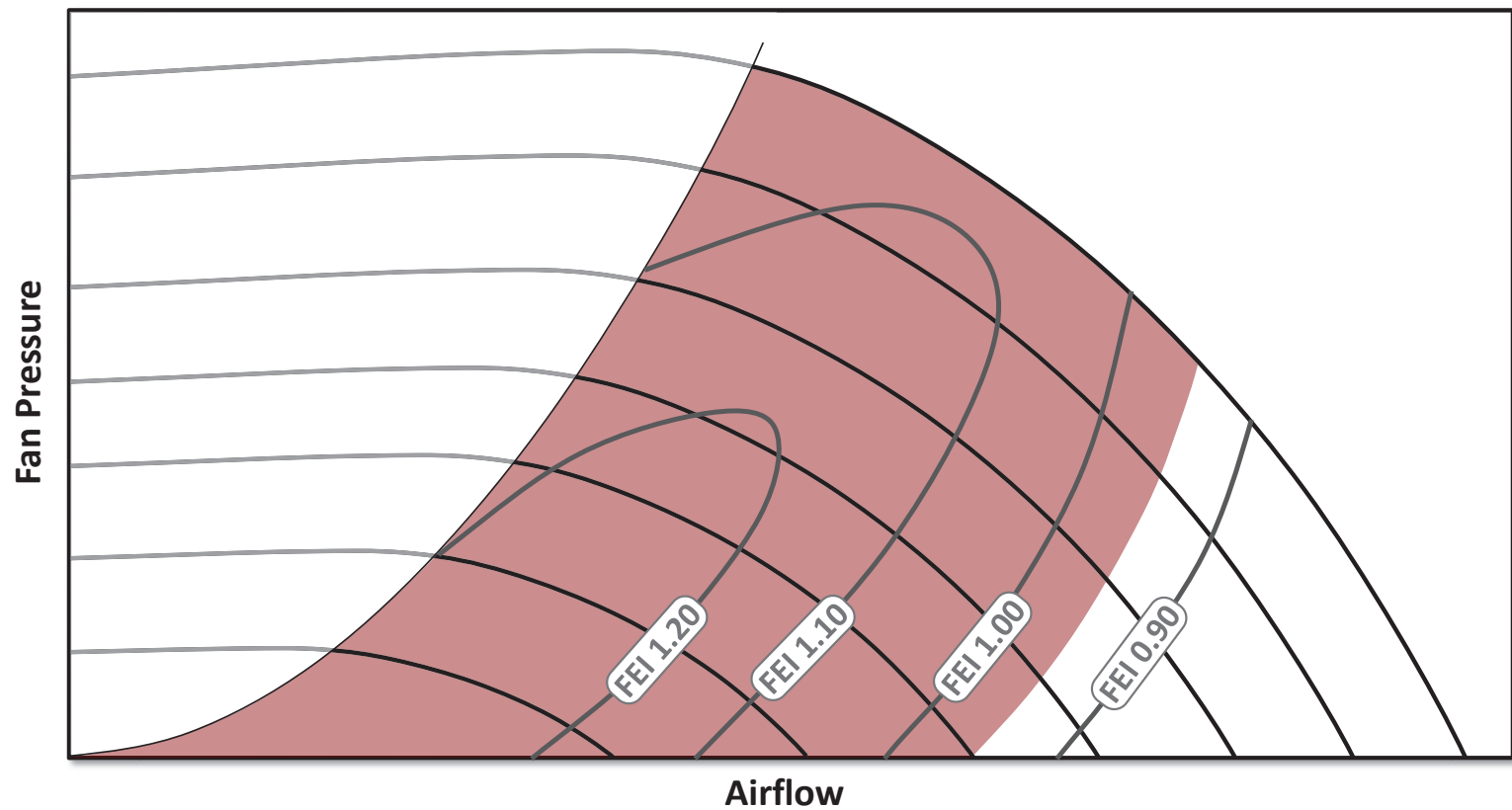
- Model energy **standard** ——— • ASHRAE 90.1 - 2019
- Model energy **code** ——— • International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) - 2021
- Model high-performance building (green) building **standard/code** ——— • ASHRAE 189.1 / Intl. Green Construction Code (IGCC) -2020
- **State** building energy **codes** ——— • California Title 24; states that adopt ASHRAE 90.1 or IECC
- **Federal** efficiency **regulations** ——— • U.S. Dept. of Energy
- **State** appliance **regulations** ——— • California Title 20

DONE
NEARLY DONE
PROGRESSING
STALLED

# Baseline ASHRAE 90.1 and IECC Language

- $FEI \geq 1.00$ ;
- $FEI \geq 0.95$  for VAV
- FEI calculated at “fan system design conditions”
- Covered
  - Standalone fans (including PRVs)  $\geq 1.00$  HP (0.89 kW)
  - Embedded fans and fan arrays  $> 5.0$  HP (4.1 kW)
- Exempt
  - Fans embedded in equipment that is regulated or 3rd party-certified for air performance or energy performance
  - Reversible tunnel ventilation fans
  - Fans for high temperatures, explosive atmospheres, high temperatures, or emergency conditions
  - Ceiling fans
  - Fans not in scope of AMCA 208

## FEI > 0.95 Defines Compliant “Bubbles” for Variable Fan Speeds



## Green/Stretch Codes

- ASHRAE 189.1-2020 and IgCC 2021
- $FEI \geq 1.10$  for covered fans
- No new exemptions from baseline
- No removal of exemptions from baseline
- Level does not change for constant or variable speed

# Specifying Certified FEI Ratings

- IMEG specifies AMCA certified ratings for fan performance, FEI, fan noise, louver & damper performance, etc.
- We've been to the AMCA HQ lab and are very confident that fans that AMCA certifies will perform to their published data (if we don't create system effects situations).



# AMCA Certified FEI Ratings

- AMCA certifying fans and manufacturer software for FEI
  - 285 product lines thus far
- Check for FEI certifications at [www.amca.org/certify](http://www.amca.org/certify)
  - Click on “Certified Product Search” and search by “license type”
- Ratings found using manufacturer’s sizing/selection software



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The AMCA International Certified Ratings Program is a globally recognized third-party program that gives buyers, specifiers and users assurance that manufacturers' published data for air movement and control products are accurate.

Search by company name, product type, country, or license type

Product Types:

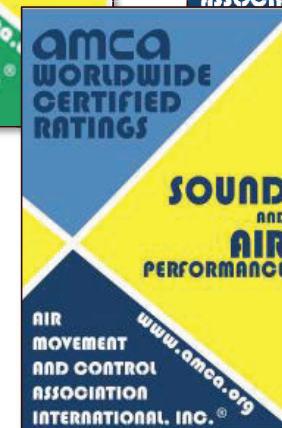
- Acoustic Duct Silencer
- Agricultural Fan
- Air Circulating Fan
- Air Curtains
- Airflow Measuring Station
- Axial Fan
- Ceiling Ventilator
- Centrifugal Fan
- Damper
- Energy Recovery Ventilator
- Evaporative Cooler
- Induced Flow
- Large Diameter Ceiling Fan
- Louver
- Mixed Flow Fan
- Positive Pressure Ventilator
- Power Roof Ventilator
- Propeller Fan
- Single Room Air Handler
- Jet Fans

License Types:

- Air Performance
- Sound
- Air Leakage
- Water Penetration
- Wind Driven Rain
- CFM per Watt
- Efficiency
- FEG
- Positive Pressure Ventilator
- Airflow Measurement Station
- Acoustic Duct Silencer
- Induced Flow Fan
- Circulating Fan
- Wind Driven Rain
- FEI
- Energy Star
- Jet Fan
- Axial Impeller



# AMCA Certified Ratings Program (CRP)



# Applying FEI in Constant Speed and VAV Systems

Michael Ivanovich



# Sizing/Selection Example

- ASHRAE 90.1-2019:
  - $FEI \geq 1.00$  at fan system design conditions (duty point)
  - $FEI \geq 0.95$  for VAV
- **Air flow rate:** 18,000 cfm (8.50 m<sup>3</sup>/s)
- **Air pressure (static):** 5.4 in. w.g. (1,345 pascal)
- **Air density:** Standard (sea level)
- For constant flow, duty point is at 100% flow
- For VAV, hypothetical duty points are:
  - **40% flow:** 7,200 cfm (4.25 m<sup>3</sup>/s)
  - **70% flow:** 12,800 cfm (5.95 m<sup>3</sup>/s)
  - **100% flow:** 18,000 cfm (8.50 m<sup>3</sup>/s)

## Example Constant Flow

Impeller diameter in (mm)	Fan Impeller Type (all double width)	FEI @ 100% Flow
18 (464)	Airfoil	0.90
20 (508)	Airfoil	1.05
22 (565)	Airfoil	1.13
24 (622)	Airfoil	1.23
27 (686)	Airfoil	1.21
18 (464)	Backward inclined	0.82
20 (508)	Backward inclined	0.93
22 (565)	Backward inclined	1.05
24 (622)	Backward inclined	1.16
27 (686)	Backward inclined	1.17

# Which Selection is Best?

Impeller diameter in (mm)	Fan Impeller Type (all double width)	FEI @ 40% Flow	FEI @ 70% Flow	FEI @ 100% Flow
18 (464)	Airfoil	1.05	0.89	0.90
20 (508)	Airfoil	1.17	1.06	1.05
22 (565)	Airfoil	1.21	1.15	1.13
24 (622)	Airfoil	1.24	1.25	1.23
27 (686)	Airfoil	1.20	1.23	1.21
16 (406)	Backward inclined	1.05	0.83	OVERSPEED
18 (464)	Backward inclined	1.02	0.90	0.82
20 (508)	Backward inclined	1.11	0.94	0.93
22 (565)	Backward inclined	1.21	1.12	1.05
24 (622)	Backward inclined	1.22	1.18	1.16
27 (686)	Backward inclined	1.19	1.20	1.17

## Guidance for VAV Systems

- Because slowing a fan's rotational speed generally increases the FEI rating:
  - Best duty point for VAV is hottest day of year, needing 100% airflow.
  - Select fan to have an acceptable FEI rating at the 100% flow rate.
  - This will ensure fan is compliant at loads below 100% flow rate.
- If the fan meets the FEI requirement at the peak condition:
  - Fan likely to meet the FEI requirement at lower flow conditions.
- Ensure fan will avoid surge and overspeed at all operating points.

# What is the Right Selection?

- All fans with  $FEI \geq 1.00$  (CS) or 0.95 (VAV) are compliant.
- Free to consider other decision criteria:
  - Form factor
  - Weight
  - Budget
  - Energy cost
  - Acoustics
  - Availability

## Resources

- **AMCA International:** [www.amca.org](http://www.amca.org)
- **AMCA Certified FEI ratings:** [www.amca.org/certify](http://www.amca.org/certify)
- **ANSI/AMCA Publications & Standards:** [www.amca.org/store](http://www.amca.org/store)  
(available for purchase)
  - > 208-18: Calculation of the Fan Energy Index
- **AMCA microsite for FEI training, technical papers, PowerPoints, and regulatory status:** [www.amca.org/fei](http://www.amca.org/fei)
- **ASHRAE 90.1-2019:** [www.ashrae.org/bookstore](http://www.ashrae.org/bookstore)



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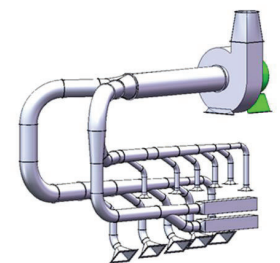
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# Questions?

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## NEXT PROGRAM

Join us for our next **AMCA *insite* Pop-Up Webinar:**

- Thursday, May 21
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. CDT
- ***TOPIC: Basics of Large Diameter Ceiling Fans***
- Presenter: Christian Taber, Principal Engineer - Codes and Standards, LEED AP BD+C, HBDP, BEMP, CEM

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