



Policy Document

Thermal Comfort

This Revision Date: 25 February 2008

Last Revision Date: New Policy

Original Policy Approved: New Policy

Authority: Vice-Chancellor

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set acceptable guidelines for the thermal performance of University buildings, both new and existing.

2.0 Policy

1. All University buildings, or parts of buildings, where human occupancy is above four hours per day for at least 75% of the year will be expected to operate at temperatures within a range of 18°C to 24°C, and humidity within a range of 40% to 70%, for 80% of the year - the “agreed level of thermal comfort”.
2. The “agreed level of thermal comfort” will be achieved where possible by environmentally sustainable and passive means using a combination of:
 - Sun-shading
 - Ventilation (natural and mechanical)
 - Insulation
 - Glazing and glazing treatment

Where this is not possible air conditioning will be provided using

- HVAC system (central or package units)
3. Common-good areas, where close temperature control is critical to the functions performed, will be air conditioned even though the areas may comply with the “agreed level of thermal comfort”. Such areas generally will be limited to:
 - Selected laboratories or parts thereof;
 - Certain animal house areas;

- Rooms containing large scale computer installations and/or electronic equipment which require temperature control as a condition of the manufacturer's warranty;
 - Certain areas within libraries; and
 - Certain lecture theatres, teaching laboratories, seminar rooms, and other teaching facilities.
4. New buildings will be designed to be energy efficient and to provide the “agreed level of thermal comfort” by the use of environmentally sustainable and passive design features which will enhance the scope for natural ventilation and environmental control.
5. Responsibility for funding
- Central funding will be provided for existing buildings that do not meet the “agreed level of thermal comfort”.
 - Central funding will be provided where close temperature control is required in common-good areas.
 - In circumstances where equipment requiring close temperature control is to be located in an existing building, or part of an existing building, it is the responsibility of the division, department or unit purchasing the equipment to ensure that adequate funding is also available to meet the close temperature control requirements.

Notes (not part of the policy):

1. Establishing whether buildings provide the “agreed level of thermal comfort” will be based on a variety of investigative tools that measure temperature and humidity.
 2. Due to the obvious cost of widely implementing this policy, it should be expected that projects to retrofit existing buildings that do not provide the “agreed level of thermal comfort” will be prioritised based on available funding.
 3. All enquiries should be directed to the Director of Property Services.
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Distribution: University-wide
Policy released by: Chief Operating Officer