

COMPUTER LABS & WORKSTATION CENTERS

HVAC: Typically, environmental control requirements for computer work station hardware are no more stringent than for human comfort. Thus, computer laboratories and work station centers need not be served by specialized “computer room” HVAC systems with tight temperature and humidity control capabilities. Rather, such facilities may be treated as standard classrooms or instructional laboratories from an environmental control perspective. When sizing cooling equipment for such applications there must be awareness that the sensible heat load will be greater than for standard facilities of equal occupancy.

Acoustics: Special attention should be given to acoustics since an elevated noise level is typically generated by a high density of work stations and occupants.

Lighting: Lighting should be designed and fixtures selected and arranged so as to minimize glare, especially on computer monitors and work surfaces. If reduced lighting levels are necessary to allow note-taking during video projection presentations, incremental switching of standard fluorescent lighting shall be considered first. If the desired level/distribution of lighting cannot be achieved in this manner, dimmable fluorescent lighting shall be provided.

Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS): Consideration should be given to providing a UPS to serve individual or multiple workstation centers.

Wire Management: All fixed furnishings should incorporate a wire management system.

Security: The design and construction of work station facilities and associated furnishings should make adequate provision for security both in terms of space entry and computer hardware retention. Consideration should be given to security when locating (i.e. siting) this type of room within a building. These facilities are particularly attractive to thieves. Card-reader access control into computer labs is highly recommended. Security CCTV is highly recommended.

Chair Rail: If a workstation facility incorporates moveable seating, a chair rail shall be provided on each wall that is vulnerable to damage. Attention should be given to installing chair rails at an elevation that is appropriate for maximizing protection for the specific chairs being used.

Coat Hooks: Coat hooks shall be provided near entrance(s) in appropriate numbers.

Data Connections: Data connections shall be provided for all computer workstations and the location of the network outlets shall be coordinated with the workstations. Power outlets shall also be provided for each workstation. A permanent wire management system shall be incorporated within the workstation furniture. Wireless access connections shall be placed in all labs.