



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# **International Aircraft Materials Fire Test Working Group Meeting**

## **Sonic Burner Cargo Liner and Seat Cushion Test Update**

Presented to: International Aircraft Materials Fire Test  
Working Group

By: Tim Salter, FAA Technical Center

Date: March 7-8, 2017, Mobile, AL



# Introduction

- **Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study 2016**
  - Review
  - Study Results
  - Outcome of Interlab Study Results
- **Fire Test Handbook Updates**
  - Chapter 7: Oil Burner Test for Seat Cushions
  - Chapter 8: Oil Burner Test for Cargo Liner
- **Seat Cushion Sonic Burner Video**
  - Overview
  - Timeline for production and release for viewing

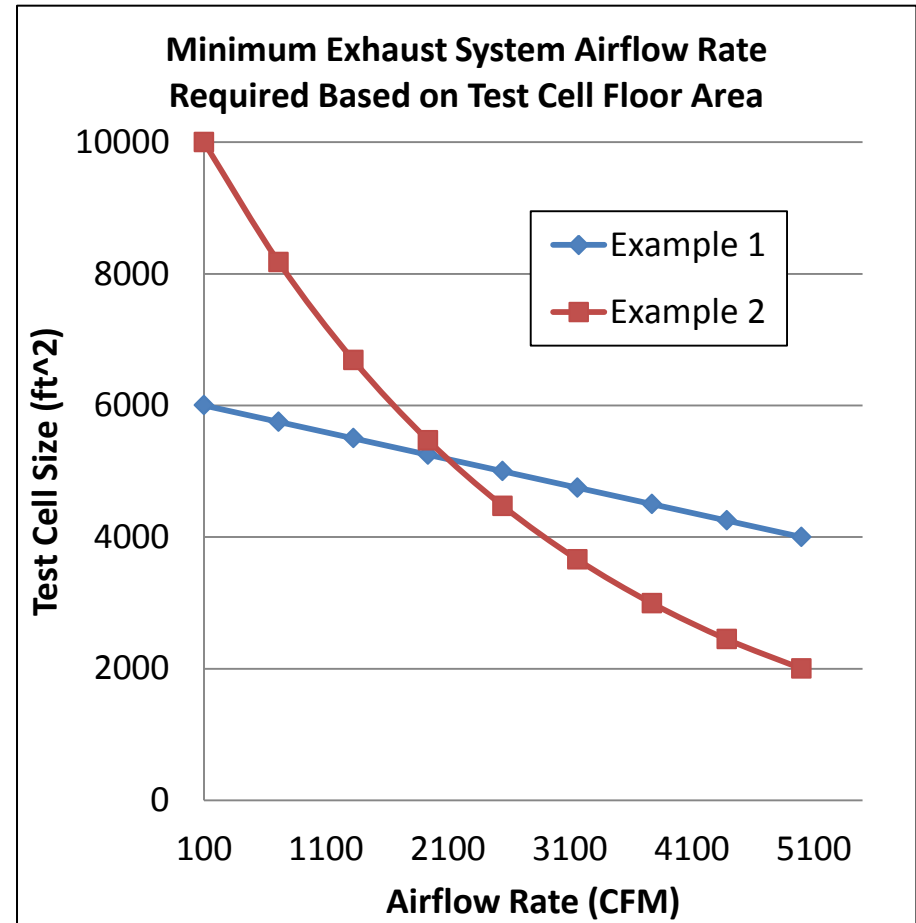
# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study



# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

- **Purpose**

- Determine correlation between test cell size and exhaust airflow
  - Example graph shown →
- Produce guidance information regarding recommended exhaust airflow rate based on size and design of lab test cell
  - May help reduce disparities in test results among labs



# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

- **Same liner type provided to all labs**
- **Conduct tests using Sonic Burner**
  - Fire Test Handbook: Chapter 8
- **Replicate provided FAA TC test results**
  - Begin by testing a sample using typical lab configuration/airflow to establish baseline data
  - Attempt to reproduce FAA test results by adjusting exhaust airflow through trial and error
  - Report back with test sample burn data, measured airflow rates, and test cell configuration details

# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

- **Assumption**

- Increasing the exhaust airflow rate inside the test cell will result in lower temperatures measured above the horizontal liner sample

- **Reduction in test cell ambient temperature**

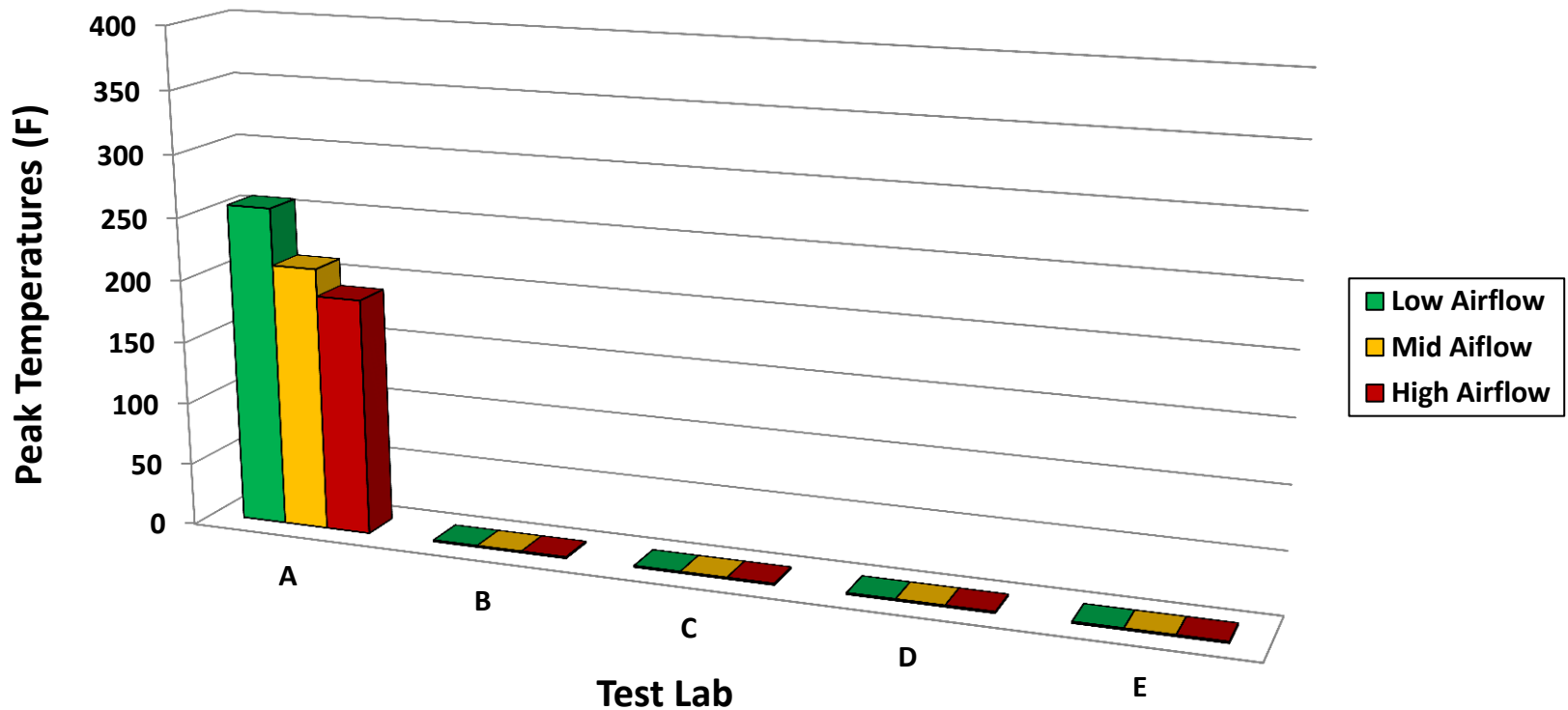
- Low airflow can turn a test cell into an oven

- **Increase test sample localized air velocity**

- Combustion byproducts lingering above test sample contributes to increased TC temperature readings

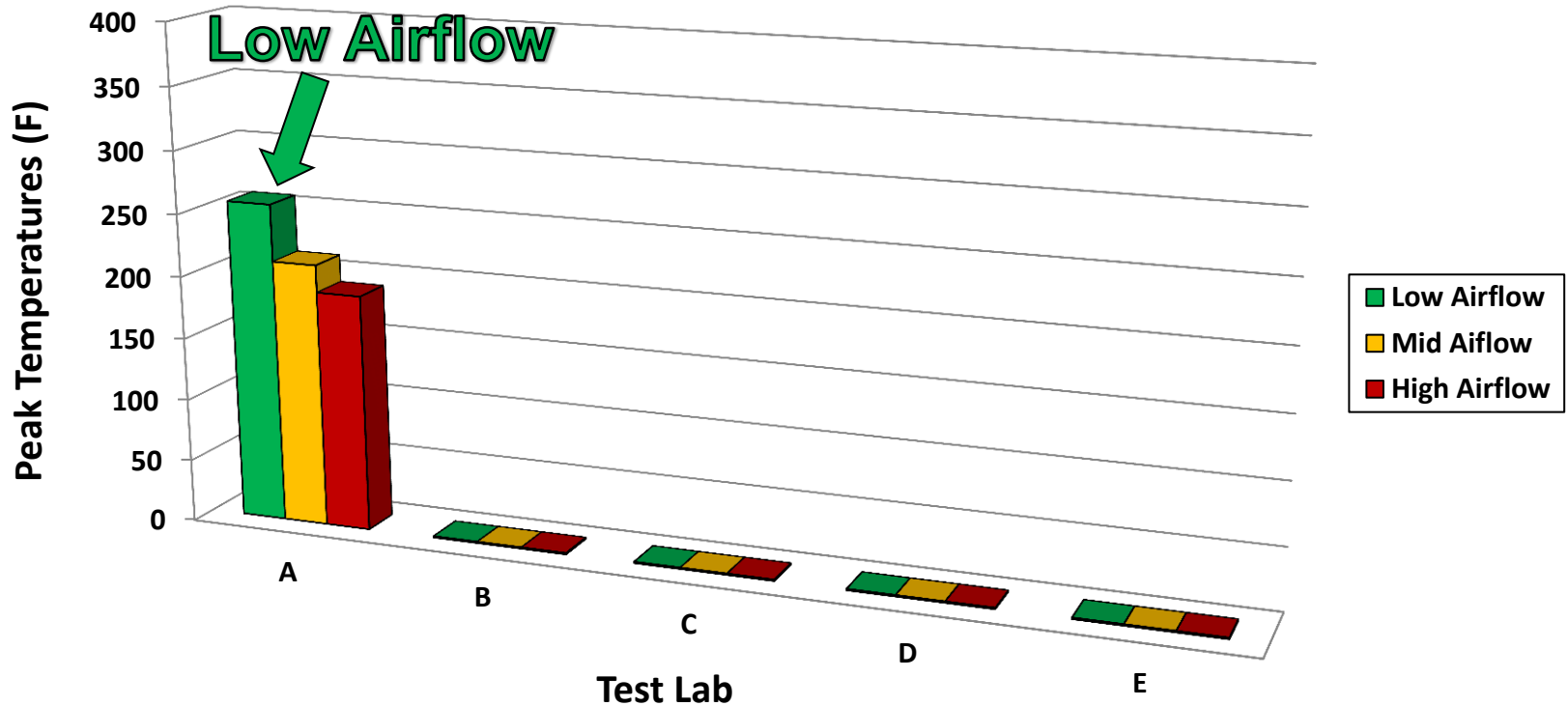
# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

Peak Temperatures Measured 4-Inches above Horizontal Liner Sample for Multiple Exhaust Airflow Rates



# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

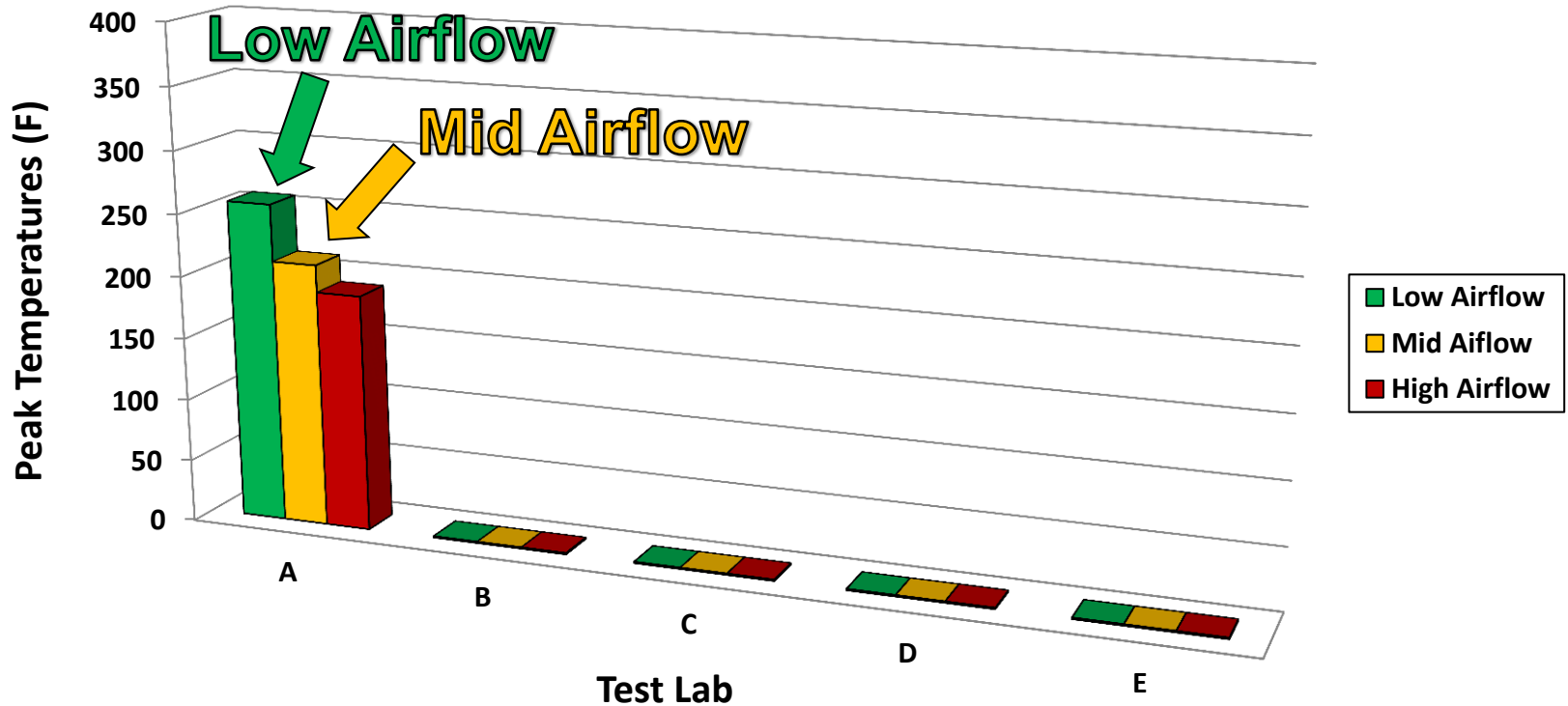
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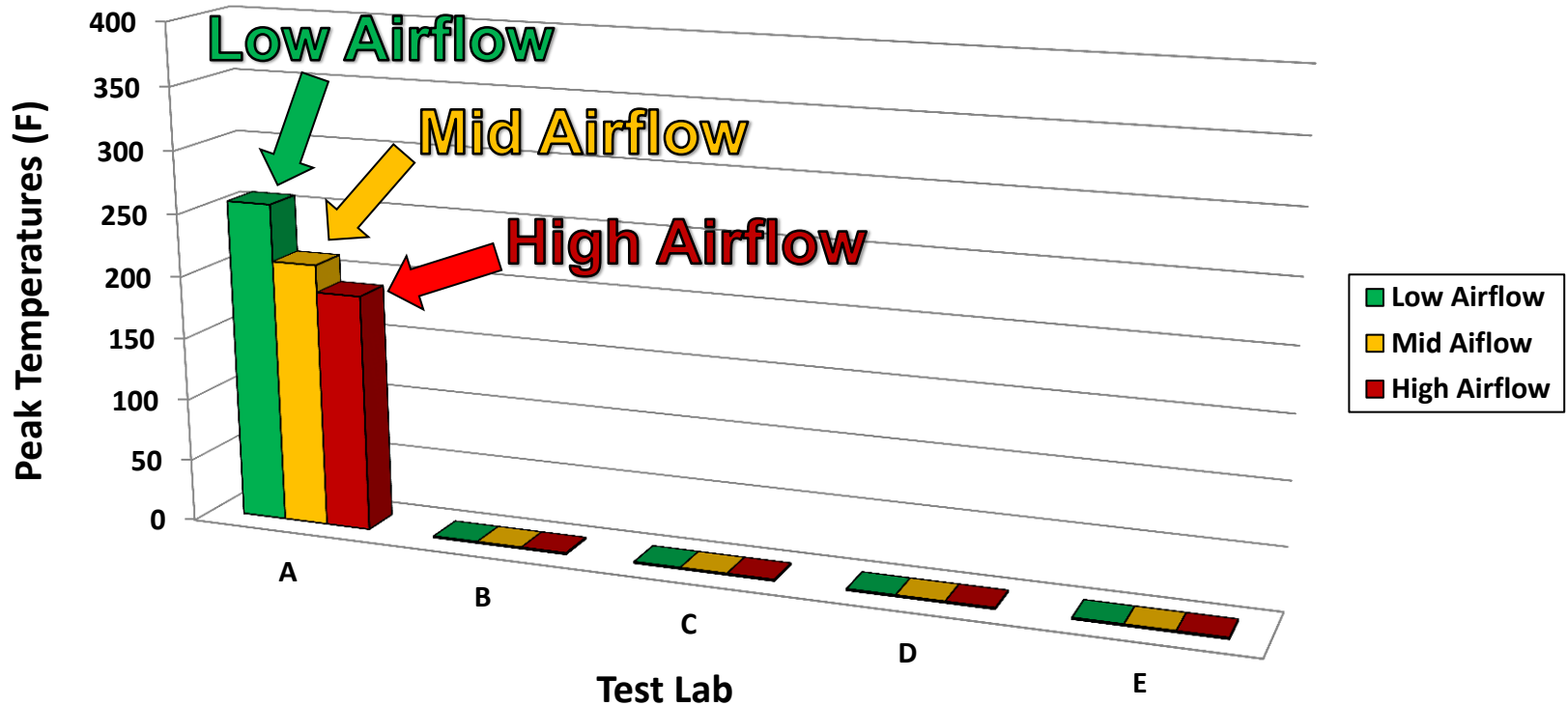
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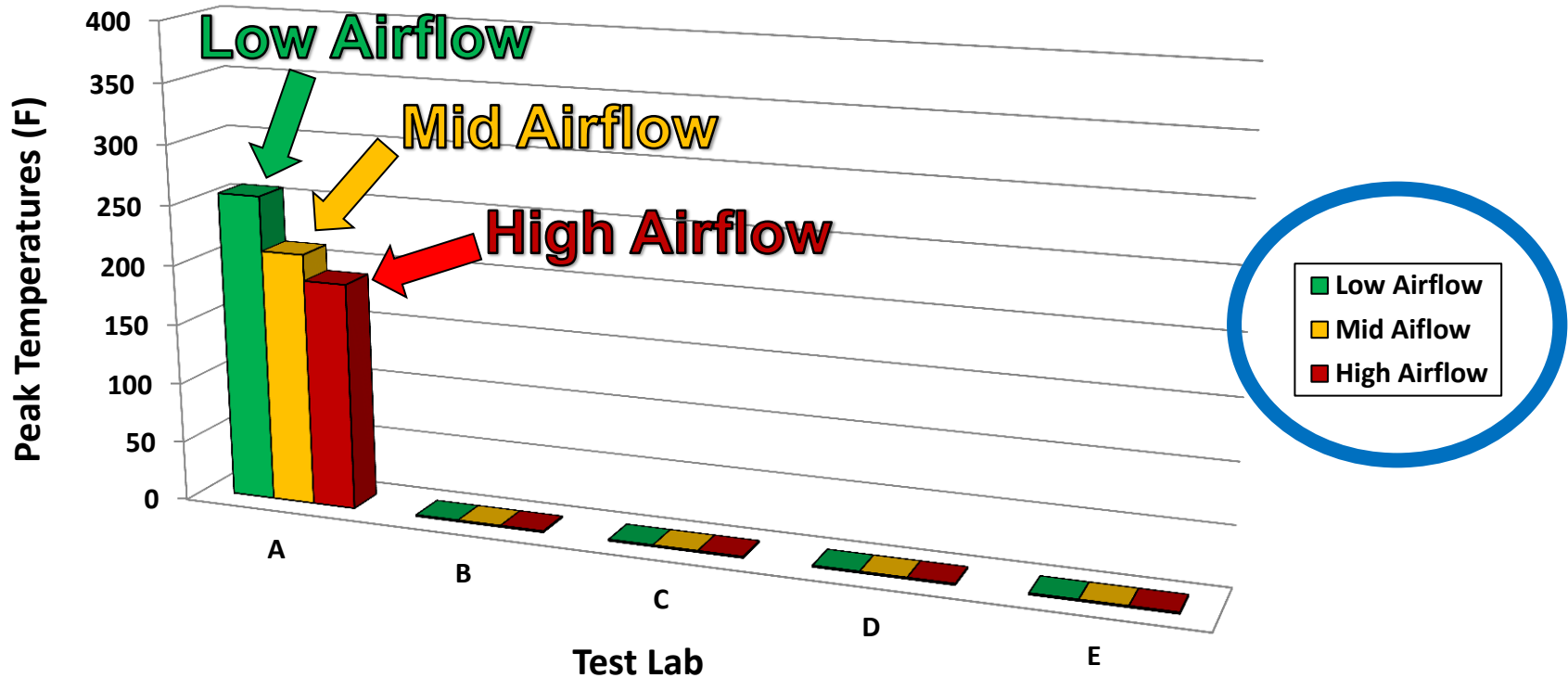
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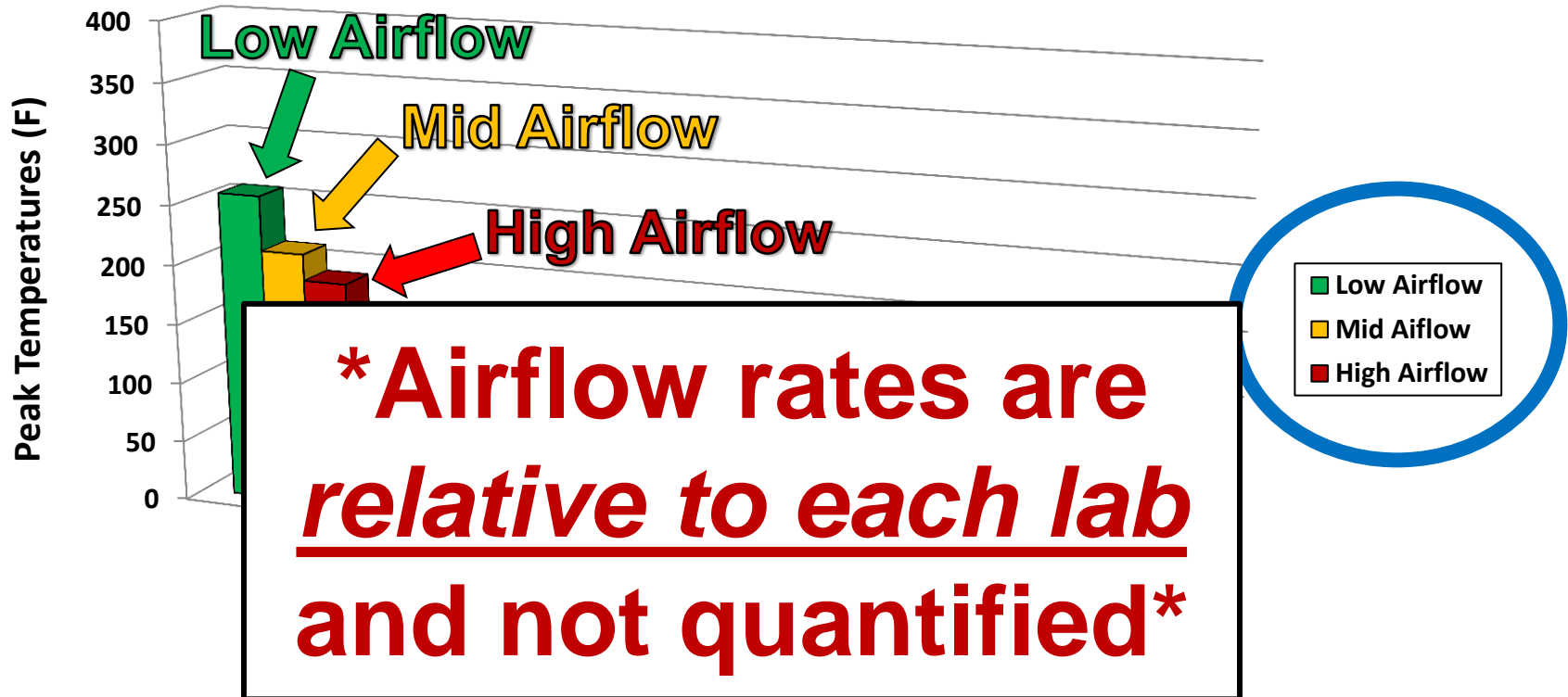
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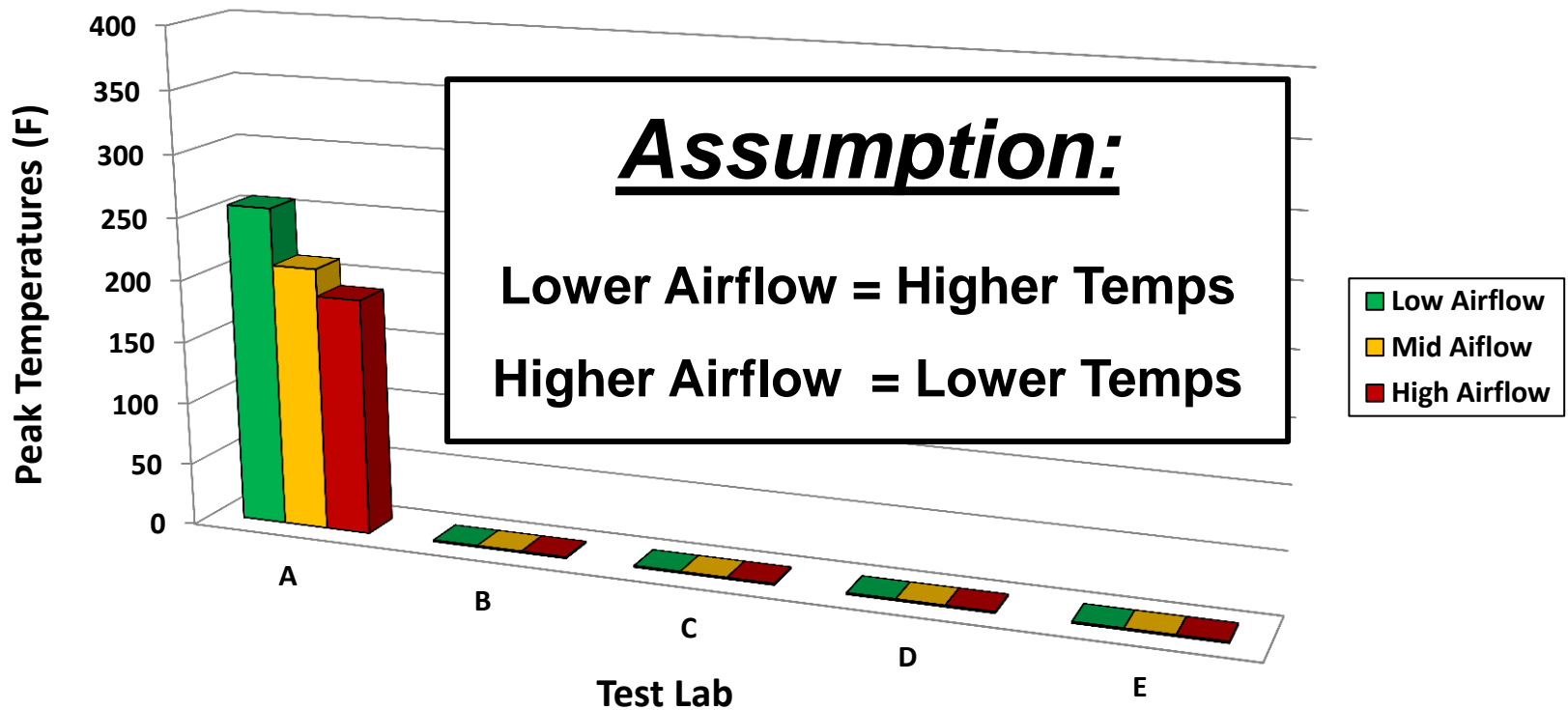
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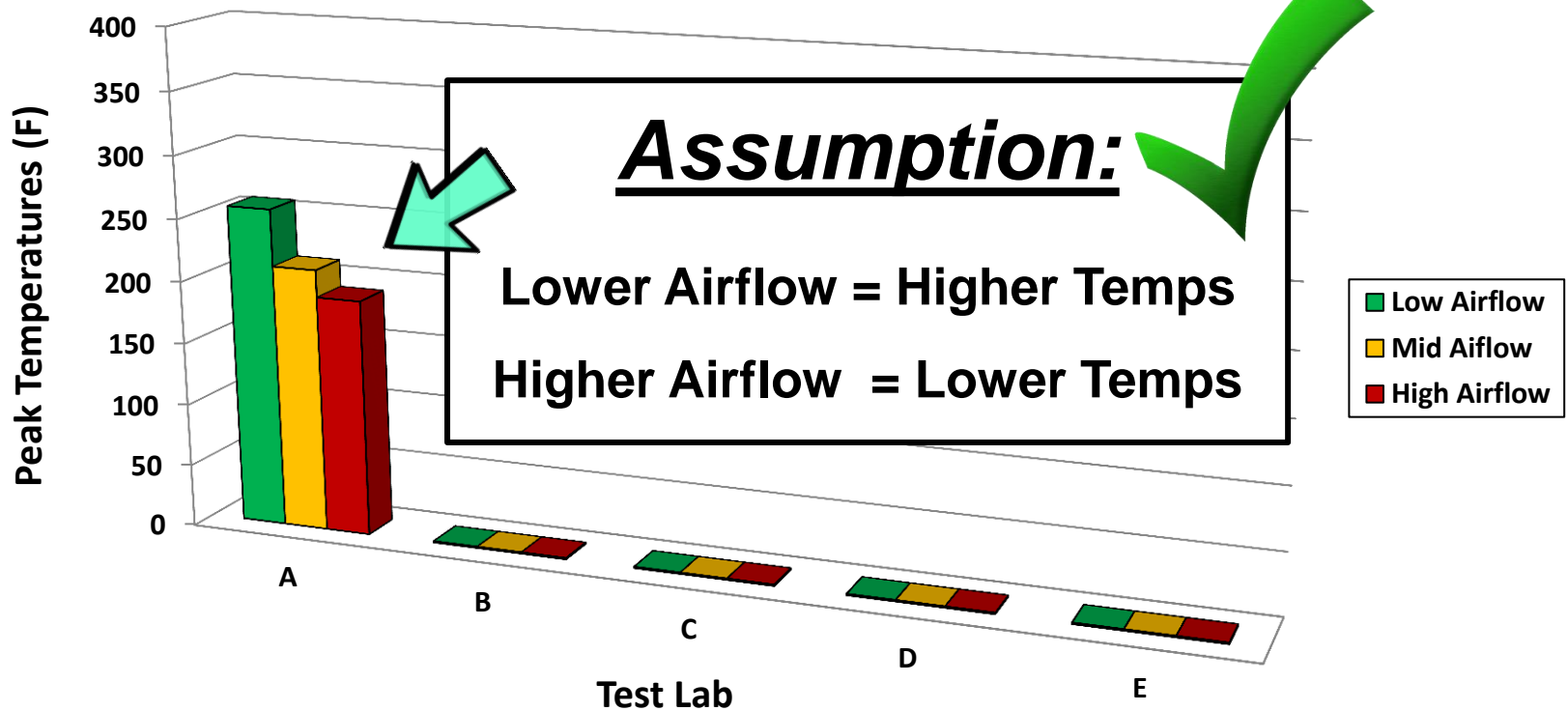
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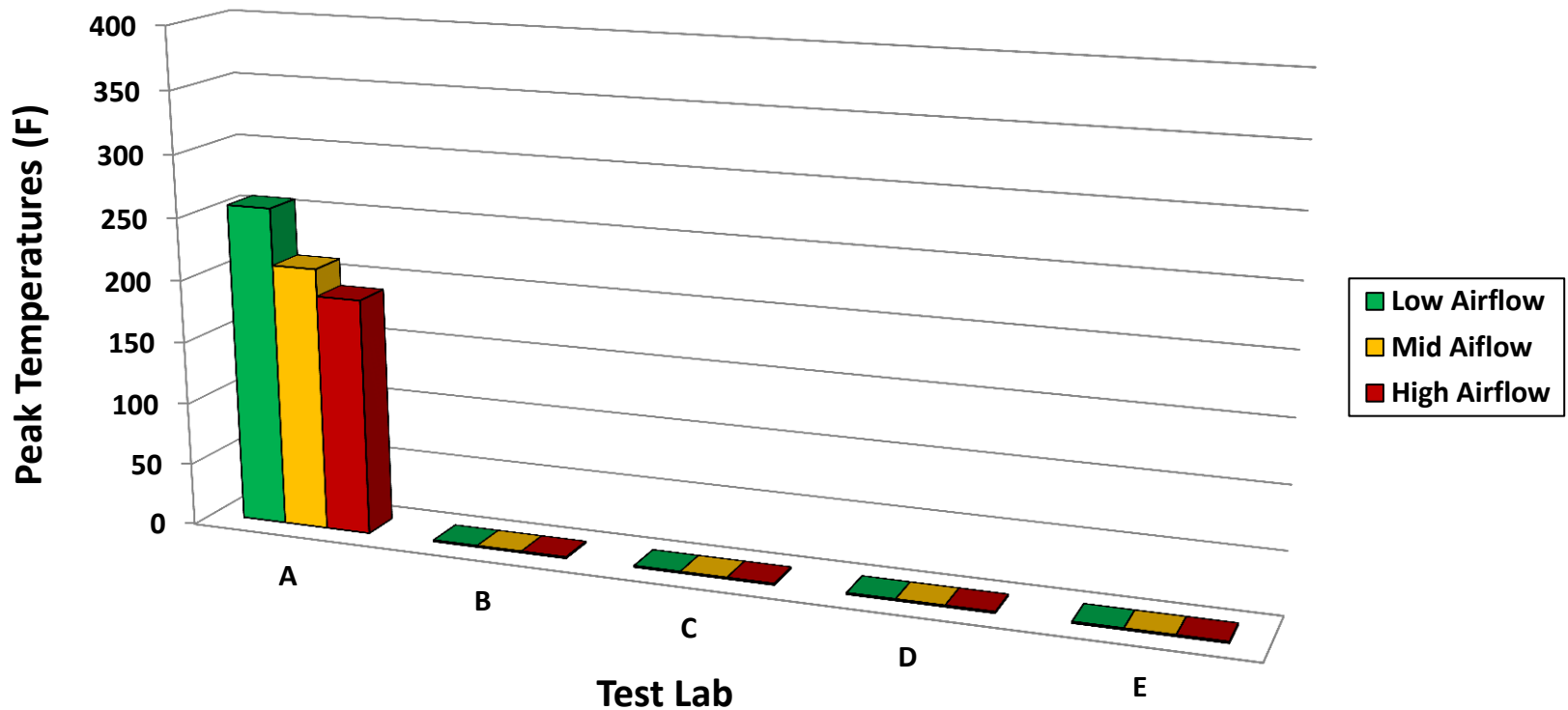
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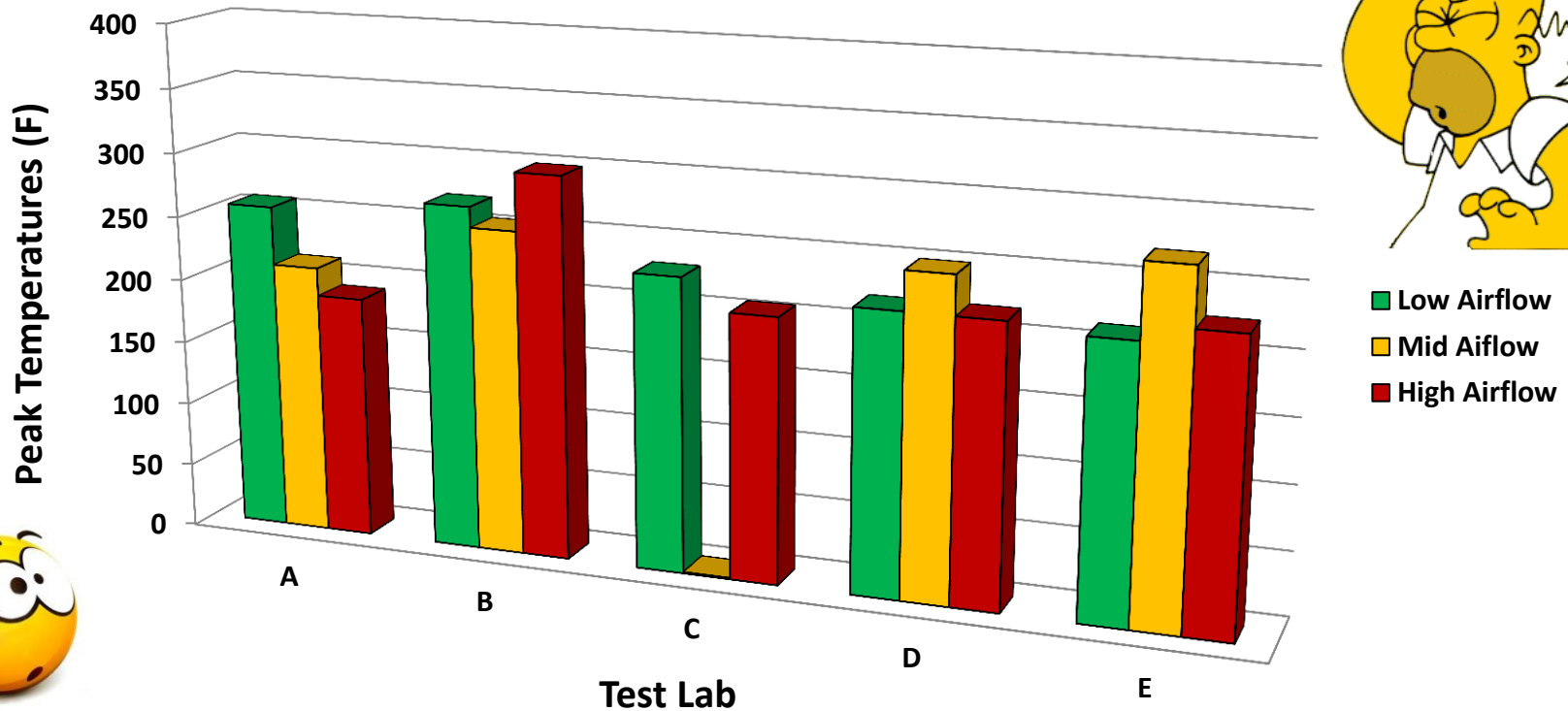
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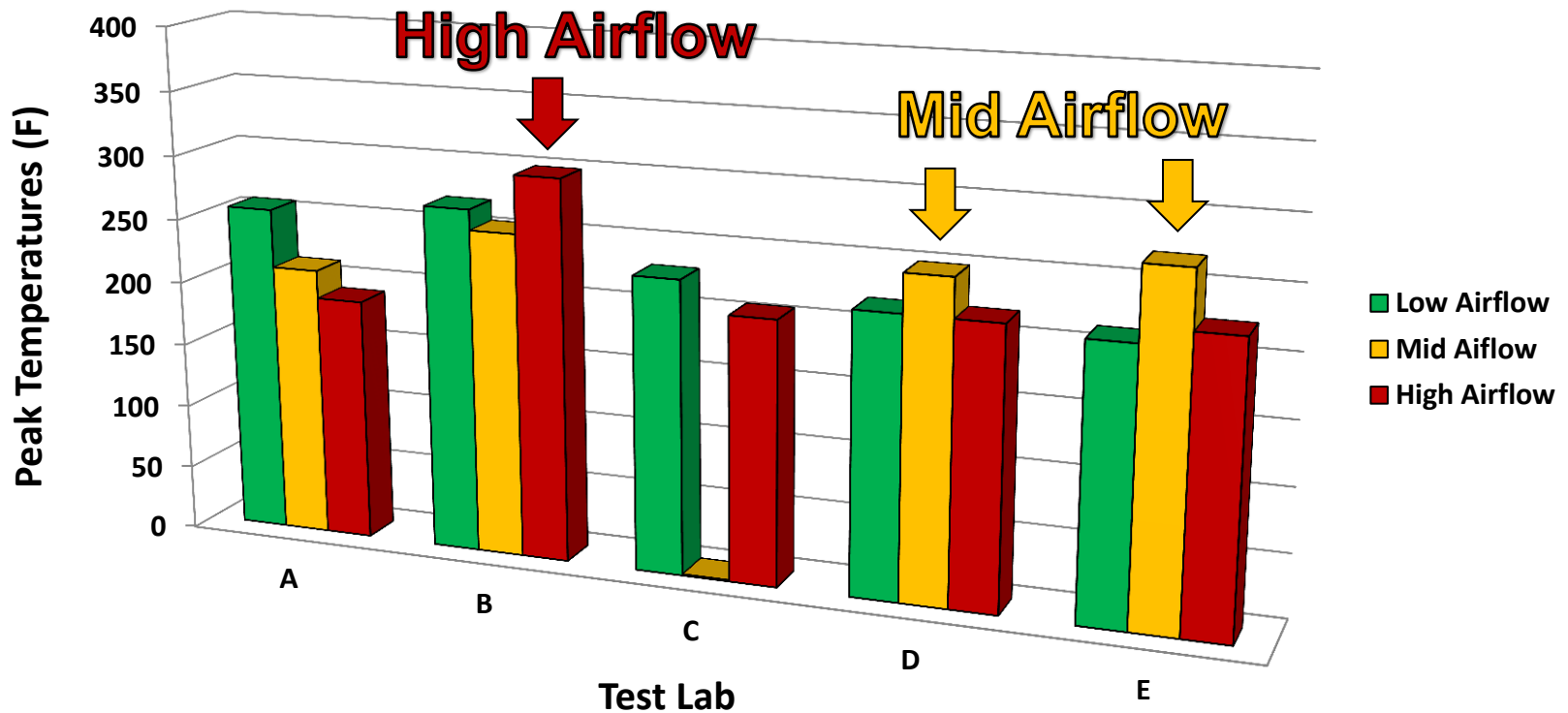
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# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

Peak Temperatures Measured 4-Inches above Horizontal Liner Sample for Multiple Exhaust Airflow Rates



# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

- **Final Outcome**

- Inconclusive

- Unable to determine direct correlation between airflow rate and test cell size

- **Multiple Unanticipated Variables**

- Method of airflow rate adjustment

- Intake and exhaust air locations

- Inconsistent data collection methods (airflow)

- Insufficient data or vague in some cases

- Some labs did not report back!

# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

- **Lessons Learned**

- More variables to consider than test cell size and airflow rate in test cell and around sample
- Study of this nature requires tighter control and a reduction in the number of variables
- Gained knowledge of test result contributing factors that were previously not considered
- Limited lab resources and time to participate in study
- Several months or more for some labs to return data
- Interlab study impractical for this research

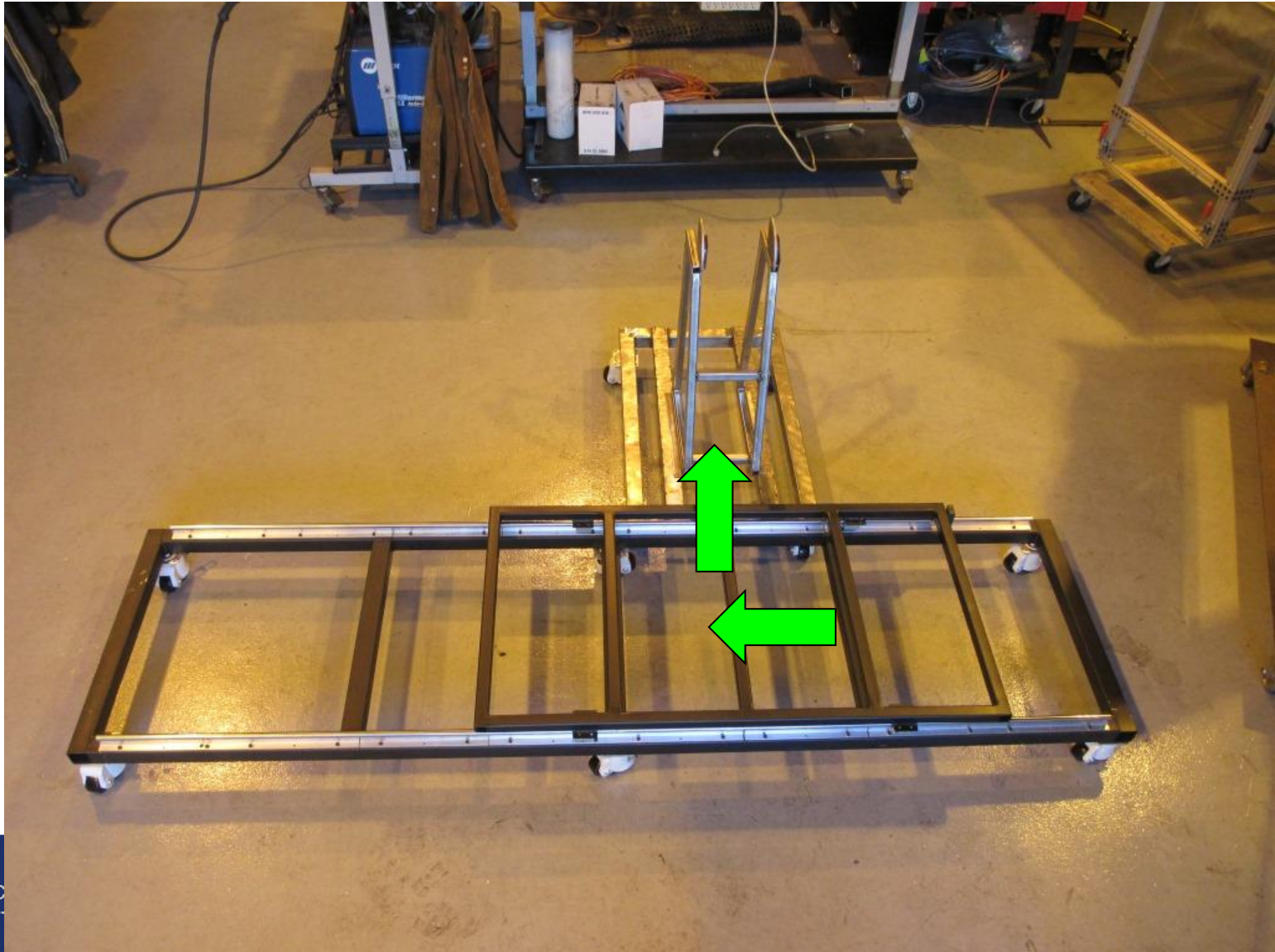
# Test Cell Airflow Interlab Study

- **Solution**
  - Perform interlab study at FAA Technical Center
- **Multiple test cell environments**
- **Reconfigure equipment as needed**
- **Exhaust hoods with variable airflow rate capabilities**
- **Numerous data collections and measurement devices**
- ***How can this be accomplished?***

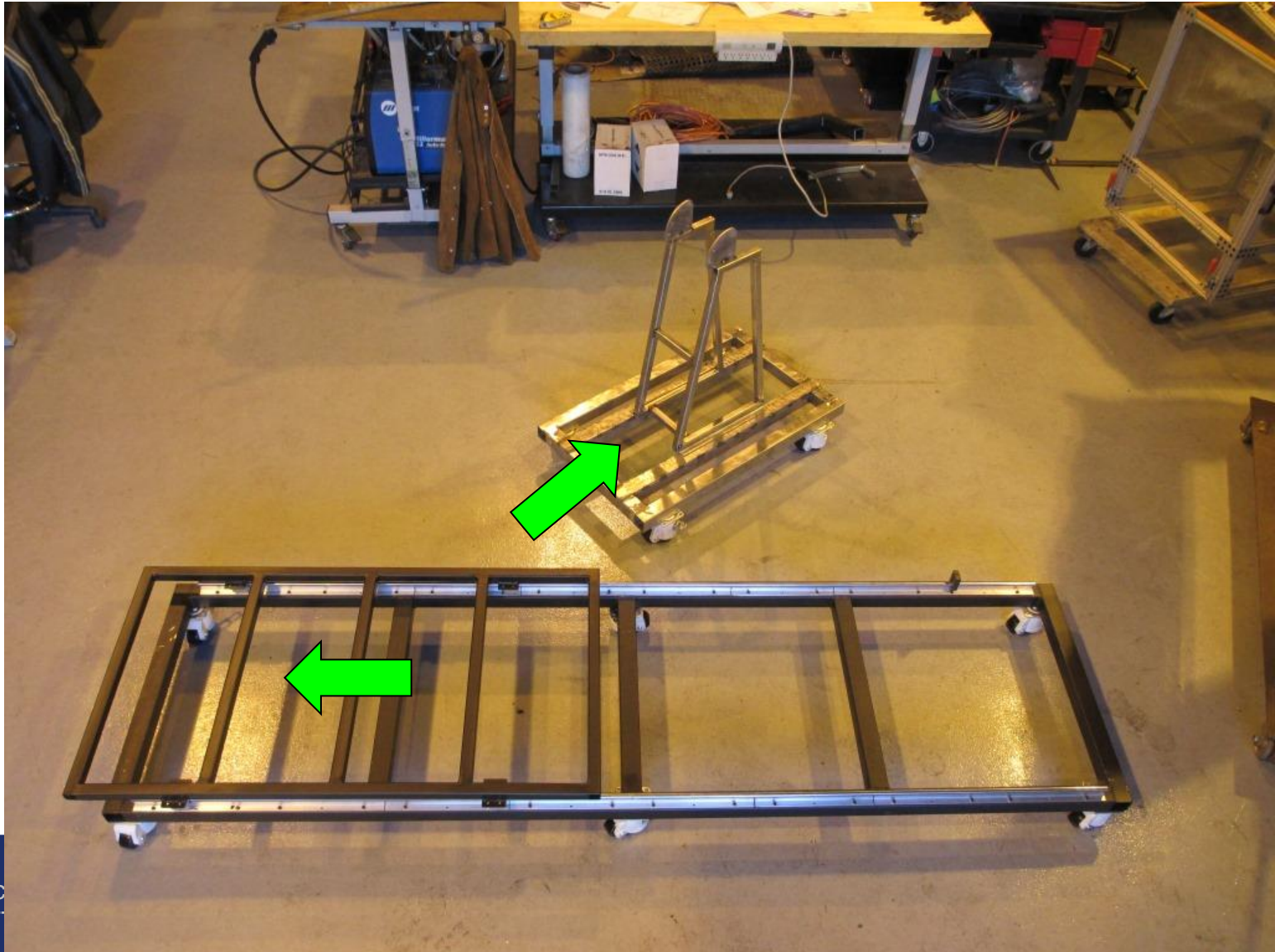
# Adaptable R&D Sonic Burner Test Rig



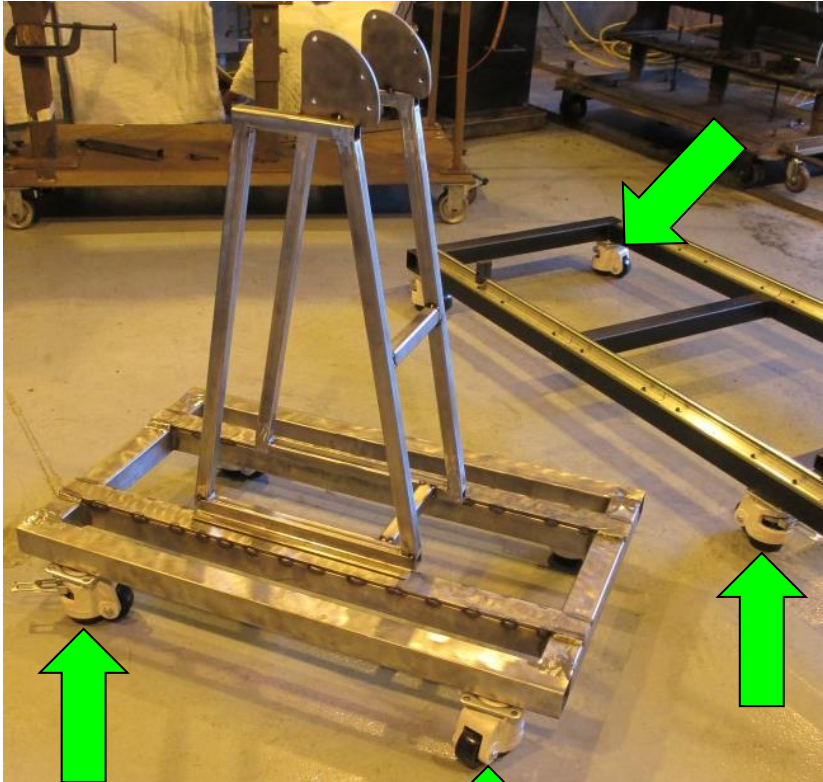
# Adaptable R&D Sonic Burner Test Rig



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# Adaptable R&D Sonic Burner Test Rig





# Adaptable R&D Sonic Burner Test Rig

- **Burner Capabilities**
  - All Sonic burner test methods
  - Easily relocated to different test environments
  - Adaptable for research purposes
  - Generate interlab study data at the FAA TC
  - Reduce need to rely on outside labs for data
  - Saves time and resources
- **Complete construction of burner and resume testing as per original study**
  - Produce guidance material (TBD)

# Fire Test Handbook Updates



# Fire Test Handbook Updates

- **Chapter 7: Seat Cushion Test Method**
  - Update air velocity measurements near sample to 100 ft./min vertical and 50 ft./min horizontal
    - Dependent upon on approval of working group
  - Information pertaining to use of Park-type oil burners previously found in supplemental information section of Chapter 7 now located in main chapter
    - Clarify this is supplemental information and not required

# Fire Test Handbook Updates

- **Chapter 8: Cargo Liner Test Method**
  - Information pertaining to use of Park-type oil burners previously found in supplemental information section of Chapter 8 now located in main chapter
    - Clarify this is supplemental information and not required
  - Other items addressed during task group meeting

# Seat Cushion Sonic Burner Video



# Seat Cushion Sonic Burner Video

- **Sonic Burner Seat Test Instruction Video**
  - Based on Chapter 7 of the Fire Test Handbook
    - “Oil Burner Test for Seat Cushions”
- **Instructions specific to Sonic burner**
  - Burner and test sample apparatus
  - Sample construction
  - Test procedures and acceptance criteria
- **Same format as recent cargo liner video**
  - “Cargo Liner Test Procedures Training Video”

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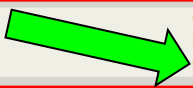
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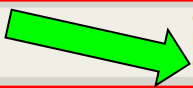
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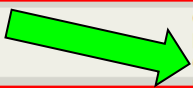
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Chapter 7 Oil Burner Test for Seat Cushions  
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**“Seat Cushion Test Procedures Training Video” will appear under Chapter 7**

# Seat Cushion Sonic Burner Video

- **Scheduled to begin shooting next week**
- **Input for video during task group meeting**
- **Updates at next IAMFTWG**
- **Will send out for industry review and feedback before final release**
- **Should be completed by September 2017**



# Planned Research and Work



# Planned Research and Work

- **Continue Airflow Study**
  - Test with new R&D Sonic Burner Rig
- **Updated Handbook Chapters**
  - Based on feedback from task groups
- **Seat Cushion Sonic Burner Video**
  - Filming begins upon return to FAA TC
- **Task Group Meeting Items**
  - Based upon feedback from task group attendees

# *Questions?*

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