Ventilation of Enclosed Train Vehicles

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Unlike the conventional automotives, modern railway trains are designed with non-openable windows. A mechanical ventilation and air-conditioning (MVAC) system is installed in each train compartment for better indoor air quality as well as to provide a thermally comfortable environment. The ventilation rate is no doubt a critical element in the design of an MVAC system, especially in Hong Kong where the daily passenger load is extremely heavy.

Ventilation criteria for ensuring a clean environment with low carbon dioxide concentration should be watched. For an acceptable indoor air quality inside the train compartment, carbon dioxide has to be kept at a low level, say 0.1% (or 1000 ppm) of the air. This can be achieved by increasing the fresh air supply rate for dilution or providing a better air distribution design. Earlier studies illustrated that carbon dioxide should be controlled at this level by increasing the ventilation rate to 25.2 m$^3$ h$^{-1}$.

References