Borough of Manhattan Community College
FlowSafe Stable Vortex® Fume Hood Conversion Kit Installation

About the College
Established in 1964, the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) is located in Manhattan, New York, and serves 26,000 students in the heart of the Tribeca neighborhood.

In support of undergraduate student research, BMCC established the Undergraduate Research Core Facility and funded a major renovation to offer students and faculty a state-of-the-art research facility.

The facility houses labs for biotechnology, forensics, chemistry, engineering, physics, tissue cultures, microscopy, molecular biology, genetics, microbiology, zoology, plant physiology, and more. Students experiment with cutting-edge techniques and obtain first-hand knowledge of working in a research lab.

- 46 upgraded fume hoods
- Safer environment for students

About the Fume Hood Upgrade
The currently installed fume hoods were over 30 years old and had no fume hood controls, so part of the facility’s upgrade plan included installing the patented FlowSafe Stable Vortex® Fume Hood Conversion Kits to create a safer learning environment. FlowSafe fume hoods are also much quieter than conventional fume hoods, which makes them an ideal choice for learning labs.

BMCC chose Stable Vortex® Conversion Kits chiefly because of the drastically improved lab safety aspect but also because of the inherent energy savings the technology provides. BMCC worked in conjunction with an energy service company (ESCO) during the facility renovation to implement a broad range of efficient energy solutions, and the Stable Vortex® Fume Hood upgrade was an integral part of the facility’s energy savings.

- Improved energy efficiency
- Quieter labs

FlowSafe Stable Vortex® Fume Hood Conversion Kits cost on average, 50-60% less than installing new fume hoods.
The Installation Process
BMCC is located in the largest city in the United States, which can require complicated delivery plans. Compared to removing and delivering 46 new fume hoods, the conversion kit approach created an easier method to physically deliver the laboratory upgrade to the sixth floor of the college.

The Conversion Kits were installed by simply removing the internal working elements of the outdated fume hood, and replacing them with the Stable Vortex® components and controls. This method did not require any asbestos abatement, as the original fume hood envelope remained in place. Johnson Controls also provided a custom paint design that matched the previously installed hoods to give a more cohesive finished product.

The ability to upgrade the laboratories without having to entirely replace the fume hoods not only saved the college money, but also allowed for a flexible installation schedule that accommodated summer classes and would not interfere with the fall semester.

Flexible installation schedule
No asbestos abatement required
Color matching to fume hood envelope

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