HVAC SYSTEMS APPLICATIONS



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS'
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
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SECOND EDITION - MARCH, 2010



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

4201 Lafayette Center Drive Chantilly, VA 20151-1209 www.smacna.org

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SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOREWORD

It is the policy of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) to continually re-visit and update the technical manuals that have become the backbone of the industry.

With this policy in mind, a Task Force was organized and tasked with the purpose of reviewing and bringing up to date the HVAC Systems Applications. This manual is often referred to as one-of-three manuals that constitute SMAC-NA's approach to HVAC systems. The other two manuals making up this group are the "HVAC Systems – Duct Design" manual and the "HVAC Systems – Testing, Adjusting and Balancing" manual. It is recommended that this manual be used in conjunction with the latest ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers) "HVAC Applications" handbook.

Accordingly, the Task Force found areas that were in need of updating, primarily due to the advancement of technology, since the manual was last revised. This included hardware as well as software improvements. In addition, the science and methodology of Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning has changed, with an increased emphasis on energy efficiency and sustainability.

As you review this 2nd edition, you will notice that some chapters have been re-named, others have been deleted, and the order of the remaining chapters presented has been adjusted. However the emphasis is still on Air and Hydronic systems. You will also notice new topics of discussion, *i.e.*:

- Displacement Ventilation
- Variable Flow Refrigerant systems
- Fan Wall Systems
- HVAC Systems as they pertain to Sustainable Buildings
- Updated review of modern Variable Frequency Drives
- Revised/Updated Figures
- Expanded chapters for Smoke Control, Cleanrooms and Laboratory HVAC systems

It is the hope of the Task Force that this revised manual will be of value to those contractors who participate in the Design Build arena, as well as those that are involved with retro-fitting existing building systems. For those working in the retro-fit market, references to systems that may be obsolete by today's standards have been retained to offer an insight into these systems.

Finally, the Glossary has also been updated to reflect these changes.

SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD		iii
HVAC SYSTE	MS APPLICATIONS TASK FORCE	iv
NOTICE TO U	JSERS OF THIS PUBLICATION	v
TABLE OF Co	ONTENTS	vii
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	Page
1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8	INTRODUCTION HVAC SYSTEM PURPOSE HUMAN THERMAL COMFORT BASIC HVAC SYSTEM COMPONENTS HVAC SYSTEM OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS HVAC SYSTEM SELECTION PARAMETERS SPACE CONDITIONS HVAC EQUIPMENT AND SPACE	1.1 1.2 1.6 1.9 1.10 1.10
CHAPTER 2	HVAC SYSTEM APPLICATION FUNDAMENTALS	
2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8 CHAPTER 3	INTRODUCTION AIR CHEMISTRY MOIST AIR PHYSICAL PROPERTIES MOIST AIR ENERGY CONTENT ZONE DEFINED AIRFLOW DEFINED SPACE CONDITIONING METHODS HVAC SYSTEMS CATEGORIZED BY PRIMARY HEAT TRANSFER MEDIA VARIABLE-AIR-VOLUME HVAC SYSTEMS	2.1 2.1 2.2 2.5 2.7 2.7
3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.9 3.10 3.11	INTRODUCTION VAV SYSTEM DESCRIPTION VAV VERSUS CONSTANT-AIR-VOLUME HVAC SYSTEMS VAV SYSTEM OPERATION VAV TERMINAL UNITS BASIC VAV TERMINAL UNITS FAN-POWERED VAV TERMINAL UNITS VAV TERMINAL UNITS WITH REHEAT BYPASS VAV TERMINAL UNITS VAV TERMINAL UNITS VAV TERMINAL UNITS VAV TERMINAL UNITS	3.1 3.2 3.4 3.8 3.11 3.18 3.18 3.21
CHAPTER 4	MULTIZONE HVAC SYSTEMS	
4.1 4.2 4.3 CHAPTER 5	INTRODUCTION MULTIZONE HVAC SYSTEM DESCRIPTION USE OF A MULTIZONE HVAC SYSTEM TERMINAL REHEAT HVAC SYSTEMS	4.1
5.1	INTRODUCTION	
5.2	SYSTEM DESCRIPTION	

5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6	SYSTEM FEATURES SYSTEM LAYOUT SYSTEM OPERATION VAV HVAC SYSTEM WITH TERMINAL REHEAT	. 5.1 . 5.2
CHAPTER 6	DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEMS	Page
6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 6.6 6.7 6.8 6.9	INTRODUCTION DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM DESCRIPTION DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM APPLICATION DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM OPERATION DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM FEATURES CENTRAL DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM EQUIPMENT DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM AIR TERMINAL UNITS SYSTEM OPERATION IMPROVING EXISTING DUAL-DUCT HVAC SYSTEM PERFORMANCE	6.1 6.5 6.5 6.5 6.8 6.9
CHAPTER 7	INDUCTION REHEAT HVAC SYSTEMS	
7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5	INTRODUCTION SYSTEM DESCRIPTION INDUCTION TERMINAL UNITS SYSTEM OPERATION SYSTEM ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES	. 7.1 . 7.1 . 7.4
CHAPTER 8	UNITARY HVAC SYSTEMS	
8.1 8.2 8.3 8.4 8.5 8.6 8.7 8.8 8.9	INTRODUCTION UNITARY HVAC SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS UNITARY HVAC SYSTEM UNITARY HVAC SYSTEM ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES CONVENTIONAL UNITARY HVAC SYSTEM TYPES SINGLE-PACKAGED UNITS SPLIT SYSTEMS PACKAGED TERMINAL AIR CONDITIONERS UNITARY HEAT PUMPS COMBINATION UNITARY AND CENTRAL HVAC SYSTEMS	8.1 8.4 8.5 8.5 8.8 8.9 8.13
CHAPTER 9	CENTRAL COOLING PLANT	
9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4 9.5 9.6 9.7 9.8 9.9 9.10 9.11	INTRODUCTION CENTRAL COOLING PLANT OPERATION AND COMPONENTS CHILLER PURPOSE CHILLER REFRIGERATION CYCLE REFRIGERANT MOTOR-COMPRESSOR UNITS MECHANICAL COMPRESSOR OPERATION AND CHARACTERISTICS ABSORPTION CHILLERS CENTRAL COOLING PLANTS WITH MULTIPLE CHILLERS COOLING TOWERS CONDENSER WATER SYSTEMS EVAPORATIVE COOLING SYSTEMS	9.1 9.1 9.5 9.6 9.6 9.8 9.10 9.11
CHAPTER 10	CENTRAL HEATING PLANT	
10.1 10.2 10.3 10.4	INTRODUCTION FURNACES BOILERS HOT WATER VERSUS STEAM	10.1 10.1

10.5 10.6 10.7 10.8 10.9 10.10 10.11 10.12 10.13 10.14 10.15	BOILER PLANT OPERATION BOILER CONSTRUCTION BOILER FUELS ELECTRIC BOILERS BOILER RATING BOILER CONTROLS BOILER FEEDWATER AND CIRCULATING PUMPS DEAERATORS INCREASING CONVENTIONAL BOILER PLANT EFFICIENCY CONDENSING BOILERS HEAT EXCHANGERS ENGINEERED HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS	10.3 10.4 10.4 10.5 10.6 10.6 10.6
44.4	INTRODUCTION	44.4
11.1 11.2	HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS	
11.2	HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS	
11.3	BASIC HEAT PUMP SYSTEM ARRANGEMENTS	
11.4	HEAT PUMP SYSTEM TYPES	
	WATER-TO-AIR HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS	
11.6 11.7	WATER-TO-AIR HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS	
11.7	WATER-TO-AIR HEAT FUMP STSTEM DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	11.11
CHAPTER 12	AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS	
12.1	INTRODUCTION	12.1
12.2	AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PURPOSE	
12.3	AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMPONENTS	
12.4	SMACNA AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM STANDARDS	
12.5	AIR DUCTS AND PLENUMS	12.2
12.6	AIR TERMINAL UNITS	12.4
12.7	AIR OUTLETS AND INLETS	
12.8	PROVISIONS FOR TESTING, ADJUSTING, AND BALANCING	12.5
CHAPTER 13	FANS AND AIR-HANDLING UNITS	
13.1	INTRODUCTION	13 1
13.2	FANS	
13.3	AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATION	
13.4	AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATING POINT	
13.5	AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DYNAMICS	_
13.6	SYSTEM OPERATING POINT AND FAN SPEED	
13.7	SUPPLY FAN AIRFLOW CONTROL	
13.8	AIR HANDLING UNITS	13.23
CHAPTER 14	AIR FILTRATION AND CLEANING	
14.1	INTRODUCTION	111
14.1	AIR FILTRATION AND CLEANING	
14.2	RATING AIR FILTERS AND CLEANERS	
14.3	AIR POLLUTANT CAPTURE METHODS	
14.4	CATEGORIES OF AIR FILTERS AND CLEANERS	
14.5	PANEL FILTERS	
14.7	RENEWABLE MEDIA FILTERS	
14.8	ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANERS	
14.9	AIR CLEANER AND FILTER LOCATION	
14.10	FILTER INSTALLATION	
14.11		

CHAPTER 15	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS	Page
15.1	INTRODUCTION	
15.2	HOT WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATION	
15.3	CHILLED WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATION	15.1
15.4	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES	15.4
15.5	HYDRONIC PIPING SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION	15.5
15.6	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATING TEMPERATURE	
	CLASSIFICATIONS	15.5
15.7	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FLOW	
15.8	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ARRANGEMENTS	
15.9	MULTI-LOOP HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS	
15.10	CONTROLLING HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FLOW	
15.11	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMPONENTS	
15.12 15.13	HYDRONIC SYSTEM HEAT TRANSFER MODE	
15.13	CONVECTION TERMINAL UNITS	
15.14	SIZING CENTRAL EQUIPMENT FOR ALL-WATER SYSTEMS	
15.16	HYDRONIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DESIGN	
		10.01
CHAPTER 16	HVAC HYDRONIC PUMPS	
16.1	INTRODUCTION	16.1
16.2	PUMPS	
16.3	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP OPERATION	
16.4	HYDRONIC SYSTEM OPERATION	
16.5	EXPANSION OR COMPRESSION TANK	16.8
CHAPTER 17	MOTORS AND VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES	
17.1	INTRODUCTION	17.1
17.2	ELECTRIC MOTOR TYPES	
17.3	INDUCTION MOTOR SIZE CLASSIFICATION	
17.4	INDUCTION MOTOR PURPOSE CLASSIFICATION	
17.5	INDUCTION MOTOR	
17.6	INDUCTION MOTOR SPEED-TORQUE RELATIONSHIP	
17.7	INDUCTION MOTOR CHARACTERISTICS	
17.8 17.9	MOTOR STARTING	
17.9	VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES	17.10
CHAPTER 18	HVAC SYSTEM CONTROL	
18.1	INTRODUCTION	18.1
18.2	CONTROL SYSTEM BASICS	
18.3	CONTROL LOOPS	
18.4	THERMOSTAT: SIMPLE CONTROL SYSTEM	
18.5	TYPES OF CONTROL SYSTEMS	
18.6	SENSING ELEMENTS	
18.7	BUILDING AUTOMATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS	
18.8 18.9	REMOTE HVAC SYSTEM MONITORING AND CONTROL	
18.10	OPEN-ARCHITECTURE CONTROL SYSTEMS	
18.11	CONTROL SYSTEM APPLICATIONS	
18.12	CONTROL SYSTEM LAYOUT AND OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	18.39
CHAPTER 19	SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS	
		40.4
19.1	INTRODUCTION	19.1

19.2 19.3 19.4 19.5 19.6 19.7 19.8	SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS SMOKE MOVEMENT SMOKE MANAGEMENT SMOKE CONTROL SIMPLE STAIRWELL PRESSURIZATION COMPLEX STAIRWELL PRESSURIZATION ZONED SMOKE CONTROL	19.1 19.4 19.4 19.7 19.9
CHAPTER 20	CLEANROOM HVAC SYSTEMS	Page
20.1 20.2 20.3 20.4 20.5 20.6 20.7 20.8 20.9	INTRODUCTION CLASSES OF CLEANROOMS CLEANROOM HVAC SYSTEMS CLEANROOM AIRFLOW PARAMETERS DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLEANROOMS CONTROL SYSTEMS HVAC DUCTWORK TYPICAL CLEANROOM SYSTEMS CLEANROOM TESTING	20.1 20.3 20.5 20.10 20.10 20.12 20.13
CHAPTER 21	LABORATORY HVAC SYSTEMS	
21.1 21.2 21.3 21.4 21.5 21.6 21.7	INTRODUCTION LABORATORY ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS SUPPLY AIR SYSTEMS EXHAUST AIR SYSTEMS LABORATORY FUME HOODS BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINETS BIOMEDICAL LABORATORIES AND ANIMAL RESEARCH FACILITIES	21.1 21.1 21.3 21.6 21.11
APPENDIX A	DISPLACEMENT VENTILATION	
A.1 A.2 A.3 A.4 A.5 A.6 A.7	DISPLACEMENT VENTILATION OVERVIEW DV SYSTEM OPERATION DV SYSTEM THERMAL PLUME DV SYSTEM ENERGY CONSIDERATIONS CEILING HEIGHT HEATING WITH DV SYSTEMS DV SYSTEMS AND UNDERFLOOR AIR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS CONCLUSION	. A.1 . A.1 . A.2 . A.2 . A.2
APPENDIX B	DEDICATED OUTSIDE AIR SYSTEMS	
B.1 B.2 B.3 B.4	DEDICATED OUTSIDE AIR SYSTEMS OVERVIEW DOAS ADVANTAGES DOAS DISADVANTAGES FRACTIONAL AND INTEGRATED DOAS SYSTEMS	. B.1 . B.2
APPENDIX C	SUSTAINABLE BUILDING HVAC SYSTEMS	
C.1 C.2 C.3 C.4 C.5 C.6 C.7	SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE BUILDING? SUSTAINABLE BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS LEED TM GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION LEED TM CERTIFICATION EXAMPLE LEED TM HVAC REQUIREMENTS SUSTAINABLE BUILDING INFORMATION FOR THE HVAC CONTRACTOR	. C.1 . C.1 . C.2 . C.2 . C.3

APPENDIX D	THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE	Page
D.1	FULL OR PARTIAL STORAGE	. D.1
GLOSSARY		



TABLES		Page
10–1	Boiler Rating by Facility Type	10.4
11–1	Basic Heat Pump System Arrangements	11.4
14–1	Mechanical Air Filter MERV Rating Information	14.4
15–1	Physical and Heat Transfer Characteristics	
17–1	System and Motor Voltages	17.9
17–2	Voltage Tolerance Ranges	17.9
17–3	Voltage Impact on Induction Motor's Operation	17.10
17–4	Induction Motor Speeds for Specified Poles	17.11
20–1	FS 209(D) Cleanroom Classifications	20.1
20-2	History of FS 209: Airborne Particulate Cleanliness Classes in Clean Rooms	
	and Clean Zones	
20-3	FS 209(E) Cleanroom Classifications	20.2
20-4	ISO 14644 Family of Standards	20.3
20-5	ISO Cleanroom and Other Associated Controlled Environments Classifications	20.4
20-6	Air Pressure Relationship	20.10
20-7	Cleanroom Temperature and Humidity	20.10
21_1	Typical Characteristics of Riological Safety Cabinets	21 12

FIGURES		Page
1–1	Comfort Zone	. 1.3
1–2	Basic HVAC System Components	
1–3	Typical Central HVAC System	
1–4	Commercial Building Energy Use	
1–5	HVAC System Selection Parameters	
2–1	Typical HVAC Psychrometric Chart	. 2.3
2–2	Psychrometric Chart Example	. 2.4
2–3	Commercial Office Building Floor Plan	
2–4	All-Air HVAC System	
2–5	Air-Hydronic HVAC System	
2–6	All-Hydronic HVAC System	
3–1 3–2	Basic Single-Zone Cooling Only VAV System	
3-2 3-3	Basic Multi-Zone Cooling-Only VAV System	
3-3 3-4	Basic VAV Single-Duct Terminal Unit – Functional Diagram	
3-4 3-5	Basic VAV Single-Duct Terminal Unit – Punctional Diagram	3.7
3–6	VAV Terminal Unit Types, Configurations, and Features	. 3.7 3.8
3–7	Single-Duct VAV Terminal Unit Control Strategy	
3–8	Basic VAV Dual-Duct Terminal Unit – Functional Diagram	
3–9	Basic VAV Dual-Duct Terminal Unit – Cutaway View	
3–10	Dual-Duct VAV Terminal Unit Schematic Diagram	
3–11	Dual-Duct VAV Terminal Unit – Non-Blending Control Strategy	
3–12	Dual-Duct VAV Terminal Unit – Maximum Heating Blending Control Strategy	
3–13	Dual-Duct VAV Terminal Unit –Unequal Flow Blending Control Strategy	
3–14	Dual-Duct VAV Terminal Unit – Constant Volume Blending Control Strategy	. 3.14
3–15	Fan-Powered VAV Terminal Unit Schematic Diagram	. 3.15
3–16	Parallel Flow Fan-Powered VAV Terminal Unit – Functional Diagram	
3–17	Parallel Flow Fan-Powered VAV Terminal Unit – Cutaway View	
3–18	Series Flow Fan-Powered VAV Terminal Unit – Functional Diagram	
3–19	Series Flow Fan-Powered VAV Terminal Unit – Cutaway View	
3–20	VAV Terminal Unit with Reheat – Functional Diagram	
3–21	Bypass (Dump) VAV Terminal Unit – Functional Diagram	. 3.20
3–22	VAV Terminal Unit Inlet Multipoint Pressure Sensor	
3–23	Multipoint Pressure Sensor	
4–1	Multizone HVAC System	
5–1	Typical Terminal Reheat HVAC System Functional Diagram	. 5.2
5–2	Constant Volume Terminal Reheat Unit	
6–1	Dual-Duct Single-Fan HVAC System	
6–2	Dual-Duct Single-Fan HVAC System Schematic Diagram	. 6.3
6-3 6-4	Dual-Duct Dual-Fan HVAC System Schematic Diagram	
6–4 6–5	Dual-Duct Low Velocity System	
6-6	Mixing and Volume Control Method Using Self-Actuated Spring-Loaded	. 6.7
0-0	Volume Regulator for Constant Volume System	6 10
6–7	Mixing and Volume Control Method Using Flow Regulator for Constant	. 0.10
0 1	Volume System	. 6.11
7–1	Induction Reheat System	. 7.2
7–2	Induction Terminal Únit Functional Diagram	. 7.3
7–3	Two-Pipe Induction Terminal Unit Bypass Control	. 7.4
8–1	Mechanical Refrigeration Cycle	
8–2	Rooftop Unitary HVAC System	. 8.7
8–3	Split-System Unitary HVAC System	
8–4	Through-The-Wall PTAC with Separate Heating and Cooling Chassis	. 8.12
8–5	Through-The-Wall PTAC with Combined Chassis	
9–1	Central Cooling Plant Schematic Diagram	
9–2	Vapor-Compression Refrigeration Cycle	
9–3	Direct-Contact Evaporative Cooling Tower	
9–4	Indirect-Contact Evaporative Cooling Tower	
9–5	Forced-Draft Cooling Tower with Counterflow	
9–6	Induced-Draft Cooling Tower with Counterflow	. 9.16



FIGURES		Page
9–7	Forced-Draft Cooling Tower with Crossflow	
9–8	Induced-Draft Cooling Tower with Crossflow	
9–9	Double-Entry Induced-Draft Cooling Tower with Crossflow	
11–1	Basic Heat Pump System Arrangements	
11–2	Air-Source Heat Pump System Schematic Diagram	
11–3	Water-Source Heat Pump System Schematic Diagram	
11–4	Closed Loop Water-To-Air Heat Pump System Schematic Diagram	
13–1	Axial-Flow Fan: Propeller Type	
13–2	Axial-Flow Fan: Tube-Axial Type	13.3
13–3	Axial-Flow Fan: Vane-Axial Type	13.3
13–4	Centrifugal Fan: Backward Inclined (Airfoil) Blade	
13–5	Centrifugal Fan: Radial (Straight) Blade	13.5
13–6		13.6
13–7		
13–7	(b) Summary of Fan Categories, Types, and Characteristics	13.8
13–8		
13–9		13.11
13–10		
13–11		
13–12		13.15
13–13	, , ,	13.17
13–1		
13–1		13.19
13–10		
13–1		
13-18		
15–1		
15-2		
15-3	One-Pipe Hydronic Distribution System	
15-4		
15-5	Two-Pipe Hydronic Distribution System (Reverse Return)	
15-6	Three-Pipe Hydronic Distribution System	15.11
15–7	Four-Pipe Hydronic Distribution System (Single Coil Convection Terminal Units)	15.12
15–8	Four-Pipe Hydronic Distribution System (Dual Coil Convection Terminal Units)	15.14
15–9	Multi-Loop Hydronic Distribution System	15.16
15–10		15.17
15–11	1 Diverting Valve	15.18
15–12		15.20
15–13		15.21
15-14		15.22
15–1	5 Double-Seated Two-Way Valve	15.22
15–10		
15–1		
16–1	Typical Centrifugal Pump Performance Curves	16.2
16–2	Typical Centrifugal Pump Performance Curves Supplied By Pump	
	Manufacturers	
16–3	Pump and System Curves	16.7
16–4	Correct Pump Connection To Expansion Tank	
16–5	Incorrect Pump Connection To Expansion Tank	
17–1	Typical Integral Horsepower Squirrel Cage Induction Motor	17.3
17-2	Typical Squirrel Cage Induction Motor Rotor	
17–3	Induction Motor Speed-Torque Curve	
17-4	NEMA Design Letter Toque-Speed Curves	17.13
17–5	Typical Full-Voltage Motor Starter	17.15
17–6	HVAC System VFD Use	
17-7	VFD Drive System Functional Diagram	17.18
17-8	Fan and Pump Operation as a Function of Speed	17.20
18-1	Generic HVAC Control System Block Diagram	18.2
18–2	VAV Terminal Unit Control Block Diagram	18.3

FIGURES		Page
18–3	Control Loop	18.6
18–4	Example HVAC Closed Loop Control System	18.7
18–5	Typical Pneumatic Control System	18.9
18–6	Typical Pneumatic Control Valves	
18–7	Automatic Multiblade Dampers	
18–8	Typical Bleed Type Thermometer and Operator	
18-9	Thermostat Flapper-Nozzle-Bimetal Assembly	
18–10	Static Pressure Control of Outdoor Air	
18–11 18–12	Basic Economy Cycle for Control of Outdoor Air	
18–12	Enthalpy Control of Outdoor Air	10.21
18–14	Preheat Secondary Pump and Three-Way Valve	
18–15	Preheat Secondary Pump and Two-Way Valve	18.23
18–16	Heating Coil and Two-Way Valve	
18–17	Electric Coil with Solid-State Controller	18.25
18–18	Cooling and Dehumidification: Practical Low Limit	
18–19	Cooling and Dehumidification with Reheat	
18–20	Evaporative Cooling Process	18.27
18–21	Evaporative Cooling with an Air Washer	
18-22	Pan humidifier Control	
18–23 18–24	Mixed Loads with Demand Reset	
18-25	Pump and System Curves with Valve Control	
18-26	Two-Way Valve with Pump Bypass	
18–27	Two-Pipe Central Plant System	18.33
18-28	Control of a Hot Water Boiler	
18-29	Hydronic System Load and Zone Control	
18–30	Stem-To-Hot Water Heat Exchange Control	
18–31	Duct Heater Control	
18–32	Dead Band Control System	
19–1 19–2	Smoke Control System Design Factors	
19-2 19-3	Air Movement Due to Normal and Reverse Stack Effect	19.3
19-5	To Prevent Smoke Migration From The Low- to the High-Pressure Side	19.5
19–4	Smoke Backflow Against Low Air Velocity Through an Open Doorway	
19–5	No Smoke Backflow with High Air Velocity Through an Open Doorway	19.6
19–6	Top Injection Stairwell Pressurization	19.8
19–7	Multiple Injection with Ground Level Fan	19.8
19–8	Multiple Injection with Roof Mounted Fan	19.9
19–9	Stairwell Pressurization with Air Supply at Each Floor	
19–10	Stairwell Pressurization with Bypass Around Supply Fan	
19–11 20–1	Typical Smoke Control Zone Arrangements	
20-1	Cross Flow Laminar Flow Cleanroom	20.6
20-2	Down Flow Laminar Flow Cleanroom	20.0
20-4	Laminar Flow Workstations	
20-5	Typical Secondary Air Location: Cross Flow Laminar Flow Cleanroom	
20-6	Conventional Cleanroom with Bypass Fan	20.9
20-7	Conventional Cleanroom with Packaged Fan/HEPA Units	
20–8	Cleanroom Mechanical Design Considerations	
20-9	Typical ISO Class 4 Cleanroom	
20–10	Typical ISO Class 5 Cleanroom	
20–11 21–1	Typical ISO Class 7 Cleanroom	
21–1 21–2	Typical Bypass Fume Hood	
21-2	Typical Auxiliary Fume Hood	
21-4	Typical Class I Biological Safety Cabinet	21.12
21–5	Typical Class II Type A Biological Safety Cabinet	
21–6	Typical Class II Type B Biological Safety Cabinet	21.14
21–7	NIH Design Requirements Manual Contents	21.16



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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an introduction to heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) applications. This chapter starts with stating the purpose of HVAC systems followed by a discussion of human thermal comfort and the industry standards that are used to establish the operating parameters for HVAC systems. Basic HVAC system components are then identified and discussed and a typical central HVAC system is presented. The importance of HVAC operating efficiency is addressed along with discussion of energy codes and standards. Energy codes and standards, green building rating systems and their relationship to HVAC system applications are also covered. This chapter closes by addressing various issues that should be considered when selecting, designing, and installing HVAC systems.

1.2 HVAC SYSTEM PURPOSE

The purpose of an HVAC system is to provide a suitable thermal environment in a defined space that meets the needs of the occupants and the activity that takes place in the space. Most HVAC systems are installed to establish an indoor environment within which building occupants can live, work, and play. The indoor environment impacts the quality of life, productivity, and well being of building occupants. As people spend an increasing amount of time inside buildings HVAC systems and their associated control systems are becoming more important. To address this growing need this manual focuses on HVAC equipment that creates human comfort indoors. Energy use in buildings is becoming increasingly important and impacting the type of the HVAC distribution system design, the HVAC equipment specified, and how the HVAC operates. HVAC systems are also required to provide suitable environmental conditions in addition to providing human comfort. In addition, energy use in buildings is becoming increasingly important and impacting the type of the HVAC distribution system design, the HVAC equipment specified, and how the HVAC operates. HVAC systems are also required to provide suitable environmental conditions for purposes other than human comfort.

1.3 HUMAN THERMAL COMFORT

1.3.1 Variables That Determine Human Thermal Comfort

Human thermal comfort is determined by the following four variables:

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Air Movement
- Air Quality

The objective of an HVAC system installed for human comfort is to control these four variables within an acceptable range for the occupants in the zone served by the HVAC system. The zone can be an entire building, an enclosed space within a building such as a room, or an area within a building. The HVAC system must be capable of controlling these four variables considering the activity taking place in the zone as well as changes in the outside environment, changes in the occupancy of the zone, and changes in the activity taking place in the zone. All of these changes take place continuously throughout the day and the HVAC system must be able to adjust and adapt to the dynamic nature of building thermal loads.

1.3.2 Establishing Parameters For Human Thermal Comfort

There are a number of industry standards and recommended practices that provide recommendations and guidance in establishing the parameters for achieving human thermal comfort for a given occupancy that take into account the activity being performed in the zone served by the HVAC system. Two important industry standards that establish the general parameters for human thermal comfort are published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE) and are as follows:

- ASHRAE Standard 55-2004: Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy
- ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2004: Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality

Both of these standards are referenced in building codes, project technical specifications, and green building rating systems and their requirements may be mandatory on a building project. The following sections will discuss each of these industry standards.

1.3.2.1 ASHRAE Standard 55

ASHRAE Standard 55 specifies the combinations of indoor space environment and personal factors that will produce thermal environmental conditions acceptable to 80 percent of the occupants in a space. The environmental factors addressed are temperature,

