

**INTERPRETATION IC 15-1989-3 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 15-1989
SAFETY CODE FOR MECHANICAL REFRIGERATION**

92-04

Request from: Mr. Richard Meilan, P.E., Kallen & Lemelson, 1430 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10018-3308

References: This request refers to the requirements for relief pressure protection in Section 9 of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15-1989.

Background: Paragraph 9.1 of Standard 15-1989 is worded as follows:

9.1 General. Every refrigerating system shall be protected by a pressure-relief device or some other means designed to safely relieve pressure due to fire or other abnormal conditions.

Mr. Meilan's letter states, "It has come to our attention that several of the chiller manufacturers are not providing relief devices on indoor chillers with remote air cooled condensers. Furthermore, we have been told that these manufacturers interpret ASHRAE 15-1989 as only requiring a relief device if a pressure vessel is provided in the refrigerant system, e.g., a flooded water cooled condenser."

"Our interpretation . . . is that all refrigeration systems must be protected by a pressure relief device or other means"

Question: Is our interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes.

Comment: Section 9 of ANSI/ASHRAE 15-1989 provides that every refrigerating system be protected by a pressure relief device or some other means designed to safely relieve pressure due to fire or other abnormal conditions. An exception is detailed in Paragraph 9.1.2 for limited charged self-contained or unit systems. Paragraph 1.3.1 provides that in cases of practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, the authority having jurisdiction may grant exceptions from the literal requirements of this Code or permit the use of other devices, materials or methods, but only when it is clearly evident that equivalent protection is thereby secured.