



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

Standard 15

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15, Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems

Purpose

Specifies safe design, construction, installation and operation of refrigeration systems.

Significance

Standard 15 establishes rules for the safe application of refrigeration equipment and systems and must be used in conjunction with ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 34-2016, *Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants*, which specifies refrigerant properties and a refrigerant classification system. Standard 15 is the basis for the criteria on refrigeration safety in the International Code Council's International Mechanical Code and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials' Uniform Plumbing Code as well as most federal, state and local building safety regulations.

Scope

Establishes safeguards for life, limb, health, and property and prescribes safety requirements. This standard applies to the design, construction, test, installation, operation, and inspection of mechanical and absorption refrigeration systems including heat pump systems used in stationary applications; to modifications including replacement of parts or components if they are not identical in function and capacity; and to substitutions of refrigerant having a different number designation.

Facts

- First published in 1919 as *Tentative Code for the Regulation of Refrigerating Machines and Refrigerants* in recognition of the need for cities and states to enact safety regulations.

- A national voluntary consensus standard developed under the auspices of ASHRAE. Consensus is defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), of which ASHRAE is a member and which has approved this standard as an American National Standard. It is revised through publication of addenda using a continuous maintenance process that includes public review of each proposed addendum.
- Written in code-compatible language, allowing for easier adoption by standards development organizations as well as federal, state and local agencies.