

**INTERPRETATION IC 15-2004-1 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 15-2004
SAFETY STANDARD FOR REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS**

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Request from: Mr. Mark Ballman (e-mail: BallmanM@colonialwebb.com), Colonial Webb Contractors, 3302 Croft Street, Norfolk, VA 23693.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15-2004, Section 9.12.6 (page 23), regarding valve labeling.

Background: End User (Customer) auditors are stating each valve must have a valve number per code or ASHRAE 15.

Labeling and tagging of individual valves in a large refrigeration system is difficult and prone to problems. For example, a plant that has a significant number of valves located outdoors will have the tagged valves exposed to harsh weather conditions. Oftentimes, the elements (wind, rain, snow, sun, etc.) will “wear” the valve tag causing it to fail and fall off the valve making it useless for its intended purpose. If the valve tags are not properly maintained, an opportunity for incorrect operation by personnel; thereby, increasing the likelihood of making a mistake in the procedural sequence. Also, initial labeling and tagging of individual valves is costly as is the continued costs for maintaining proper tagging for the valves.

The intent of my interpretation request isn't to stop the use of valve numbers, but be able to provide a logical and cost effective means to meet the standard as it deals with labeling/numbering valves.

1. Interpretation: ASHRAE Standard 15-2004 Section 9.12.6 requires the labeling of each individual stop valve serving an evaporator located within a penthouse where the valve group is located adjacent to but outside of the penthouse.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

2. Interpretation: ASHRAE Standard 15-2004 Section 9.12.6 requires the labeling of each individual stop valve that serves an evaporator with the valve group located immediately adjacent and in sight of the evaporator.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: No

Comment: There may be additional requirements in local codes beyond those in ASHRAE 15.