

**INTERPRETATION IC 15-1992-2 OF
ASHRAE STANDARD 15-1992
SAFETY CODE FOR MECHANICAL REFRIGERATION**

December 17, 1992

Request from: Albert Bedinger, Albert F.G. Bedinger Consulting Engineers, L & N Depot, Suite 23, 803 West Jackson Ave., Knoxville, TN 37902

References: This request refers to the scope of Subsection 2.2(b) and the placement of certain building types among the occupancy categories in Section 4 of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15-1992.

Background:

1. Subsection 2.2(b) reads:

2.2 This code applies

(b) to parts replaced and components added after adoption of this code.

Mr. Bedinger's letter states, "It is my interpretation that 2.2(b) refers only to the refrigeration side of a machine. If work is done on the water side of a chiller or a boiler in the same room with a chiller then ASHRAE 15-1992 does not apply."

2. Mr. Bedinger's letter also opines, concerning Section 4 "It is my interpretation that school buildings (K through 12, and colleges) fall into the category of Public Assembly Occupancy."

Question 1: Is Mr. Bedinger's interpretation No. 1 correct?

Answer 1: No.

Comment: Since ASHRAE 15-1992 applies to mechanical refrigeration systems, Section 2.2(b) applies to the entire refrigeration system including the water side of the chiller, but not to the chilled water distribution system connected to the chiller. The plumbing and piping codes enforced by the local jurisdiction should be consulted.

The only requirement in ASHRAE 15-1992 that relates to open-flame-fired boilers, water heaters, etc. is in paragraph 11.13.5.

Question 2: Is Mr. Bedinger's interpretation No. 2 correct?

Answer 2: Yes.

Comment: In the case of colleges, since the campus comprises several separate buildings, the classrooms, auditoriums, laboratories, etc., would be considered public assembly occupancy. The occupancy classification of the remaining buildings would depend on their use.