



ADDENDA

**ANSI/ASHRAE Addendum ab to
ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15-2022**

Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems

Approved by ASHRAE and the American National Standards Institute on September 30, 2024.

This addendum was approved by a Standing Standard Project Committee (SSPC) for which the Standards Committee has established a documented program for regular publication of addenda or revisions, including procedures for timely, documented, consensus action on requests for change to any part of the standard. Instructions for how to submit a change can be found on the ASHRAE® website (www.ashrae.org/continuous-maintenance).

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Cognizant TCs: 10.1, Custom Engineered Refrigeration Systems, and 9.1, Large Building Air-Conditioning Systems

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FOREWORD

There is historical precedent for machinery room spaces to be used for housing or storing other equipment or systems within the room that are not related to the machinery systems the room is specifically designed and intended to house. This creates a situation that often requires unauthorized, nonutility personnel to access the space and the equipment they are operating, inspecting, or maintaining. This increases the risk of an accident that Section 8.9.4 tries to minimize. The concern is particularly heightened as many facilities begin their transition to A2L refrigerant systems

Addendum ab emphasizes the existing normative requirements of the standard and provides information in Appendix A as to what types of equipment are generally expected to be in a machinery room and types of equipment and materials that should not be located in a machinery room. In addition, the changes provide additional information on the authorized personnel requirements for accessing a machinery room.

Informative Note: In this addendum, changes to the current standard are indicated in the text by underlining (for additions) and ~~strike through~~ (for deletions) unless the instructions specifically mention some other means of indicating the changes.

Addendum ab to Standard 15-2022

Modify Section 8 as shown. The remainder of Section 8 remains unchanged.

8.9.1* *Machinery rooms* are not prohibited from housing other mechanical equipment unless specifically prohibited elsewhere in this standard. Where equipment other than machinery is located in a machinery room, any personnel who must access the machinery room to operate, inspect, repair, or maintain such equipment shall comply with Section 8.9.4.

8.9.1.1A *machinery room shall* be so dimensioned that parts are accessible with space for service, maintenance, and operations.

8.9.1.2 *There shall* be clear head room of not less than 7.25 ft (2.2 m) below equipment situated over passageways.

[. . .]

8.9.4* **Access.** Access to the refrigerating *machinery room shall* be restricted to authorized personnel. Doors *shall* be clearly marked, or permanent signs *shall* be posted at each entrance to indicate this restriction.

[. . .]

Modify Informative Appendix A as shown. The remainder of the appendix is unchanged.

INFORMATIVE APPENDIX A EXPLANATORY MATERIAL

Sections of the standard with associated explanatory information in this appendix are marked with an asterisk "*" after the section number.

[. . .]

Section 8.9.1

The primary function of refrigerating machinery rooms is to safely house refrigerating machinery and related support equipment, such as secondary fluid pumps, condenser water pumps, condenser water sumps, condenser water treatment systems, etc. A refrigerating machinery room is not intended to house or store other unrelated equipment, materials, and supplies, such as irrigation equipment and their control panels, telecommunications equipment, window-washing equipment, janitorial supplies, pallets, boxes, seasonal furniture, etc. The reason to prohibit locating other equipment or supplies in a machinery room is threefold. First, added equipment within a machinery room increases hazards within the room and the likelihood of an incident by the presence of colocated equipment and supplies, and by reducing the space available for inspections, tests, and operating the refrigerating machinery. Second, locating unrelated equipment and supplies in a machinery room increases the likelihood that unauthorized personnel lacking appropriate refriger-

ating machinery room safety training will access the machinery room. Third, locating unrelated equipment and supplies in a machinery room must not impact or alter safety systems, such as refrigerant detection and machinery room ventilation airflow. Although this section does permit housing other mechanical equipment in the room, it is essential that all personnel accessing a machinery room be authorized to do so by the owner in accordance with Section 8.9.4.

Section 8.9.4

The purpose of restricting machinery room access to authorized personnel is to ensure those occupying the machinery room understand the hazards that exist within the room as well as evacuation/response plans should a refrigerant leak be detected or another type of incident occur. In addition, authorized personnel need to have appropriate training that enables them to safely perform assigned work within the room. The owner is responsible for establishing the threshold requirements and instruction/training to credential each individual considered authorized for machinery room access. In the case of authorizing contractors or other outside personnel, the owner is obligated to inform a representative from the contractor's organization or other outside personnel of hazards within the space, alarms, and emergency action planning, and to ensure they have appropriate training for the work they are expected to conduct within the space. The informed contractor, or other outside personnel, is then responsible to ensure all of its employees who will conduct work on-site have been trained for authorization. In cases where nonauthorized personnel require access to the space, such as AHJs, consultants, etc., authorized facility personnel can serve as their escort during periods where they must access the machinery room.

POLICY STATEMENT DEFINING ASHRAE'S CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ITS ACTIVITIES

ASHRAE is concerned with the impact of its members' activities on both the indoor and outdoor environment. ASHRAE's members will strive to minimize any possible deleterious effect on the indoor and outdoor environment of the systems and components in their responsibility while maximizing the beneficial effects these systems provide, consistent with accepted Standards and the practical state of the art.

ASHRAE's short-range goal is to ensure that the systems and components within its scope do not impact the indoor and outdoor environment to a greater extent than specified by the Standards and Guidelines as established by itself and other responsible bodies.

As an ongoing goal, ASHRAE will, through its Standards Committee and extensive Technical Committee structure, continue to generate up-to-date Standards and Guidelines where appropriate and adopt, recommend, and promote those new and revised Standards developed by other responsible organizations.

Through its *Handbook*, appropriate chapters will contain up-to-date Standards and design considerations as the material is systematically revised.

ASHRAE will take the lead with respect to dissemination of environmental information of its primary interest and will seek out and disseminate information from other responsible organizations that is pertinent, as guides to updating Standards and Guidelines.

The effects of the design and selection of equipment and systems will be considered within the scope of the system's intended use and expected misuse. The disposal of hazardous materials, if any, will also be considered.

ASHRAE's primary concern for environmental impact will be at the site where equipment within ASHRAE's scope operates. However, energy source selection and the possible environmental impact due to the energy source and energy transportation will be considered where possible. Recommendations concerning energy source selection should be made by its members.

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