

**INTERPRETATION IC 15-2019-2 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 15-2019  
SAFETY STANDARD FOR REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS**

Date Approved: February 4, 2021

**Request from:** Harshad Inamdar, Rheem Manufacturing, 5600 Old Greenwood Road, Fort Smith, AR 72908.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15-2019, Section 7.6.5(b), regarding response time of refrigerant detector.

**Background:** The standard requires refrigerant detectors to activate mitigation measures (per Section 7.6.2.4) such as turning off the compressor, opening up zoning dampers, turning off heaters and electrical devices located in the ductwork, and turning on the indoor fan/blower upon detection of a refrigerant leak. As part of Section 7.6, which requires products to be *listed*, the specific clause 7.6.5(b) referenced in this request requires detectors, *as installed*, to activate mitigation measures within 15 seconds *when refrigerant concentration reaches 25% of LFL*.

**Interpretation No.1:** Section 7.6.5(b) does not prescribe the refrigerant detector set-point (=gas concentration threshold above which the refrigerant detector activates prescribed mitigation measures) to be exactly equal to 25% of LFL. A lower set-point (detected gas concentration  $\leq$  25% of LFL) is permitted.

**Question No.1:** Is this Interpretation correct?

**Answer No.1:** Yes, set points lower than 25% of LFL are permitted.

**Interpretation No.2:** A higher set-point (detected gas concentration  $>$  25% LFL) is not permitted.

**Question No.2:** Is this Interpretation correct?

**Answer No.2:** Yes, the maximum set point for the refrigerant sensor is 25% of LFL, as stated actions must be initiated at that concentration limit.

**Interpretation No.3:** The phrase “as installed” in clause 7.6.5(b) applies to sample(s) of the refrigerant detector as installed in the listed equipment for the listing evaluation.

**Question No.3:** Is this Interpretation correct?

**Answer No.3:** Yes, the intent of this section is to require evaluating the refrigerant detector as it is installed in the *listed* equipment as part of the listing evaluation. This conveys that it is not permissible to evaluate the refrigerant detector in a stand-alone condition versus as installed within the equipment. It is not intended to require each refrigerant detector to be tested on the manufacturing line. It should be noted that Section 7.6.5(e) requires additional field testing.