

**INTERPRETATION IC 15.2-2022-1 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 15.2-2022
Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems in Residential Applications**

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Request from: Aaron McEwin (amcewin@jordanskala.com), Jordan & Skala Engineers, Inc., 6201 W Plano Pkwy, Suite 250, Plano, TX 75093. (Phone: 469-385-1616)

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15.2-2022, Section 10.5.4.2, regarding reused piping in split systems.

Background: When reusing piping, Section 10.5.4.2 references in ‘a’ Section 8.5.1.2.

10.5.4 Exposure of Refrigerant Piping System

10.5.4.1 New Piping. Newly installed *refrigerant* pipe, and joints installed in the field, *shall* be exposed for visual inspection and testing prior to being covered or enclosed.

10.5.4.2 Reused Piping. Reused *piping shall* be in compliance with Section 10.5.4.1 unless in accordance with all of the following:

- a. *Piping shall* be protected in accordance with Section 8.5.1.2. Verification of the presence of shield plates *shall* be accomplished by one of the following methods:
 1. Determine the *piping* was previously inspected for shield plates through building inspection records.
 2. Use an *approved* tool or visual inspection to verify shield plates are installed.

8.5 Refrigerant Pipe Installation

8.5.1 Piping Location. *Refrigerant piping shall* be located in accordance with Sections 8.5.1.1 through 8.5.1.5.

8.5.1.1 Pipe Protection. The exterior of the pipe *shall* be protected from corrosion, degradation, galvanic corrosion, and abrasion. *Refrigerant* pipe *shall not* be in contact with building materials that can abrade the pipe. *Refrigerant* pipe *shall* be installed as follows:

- a. In a wall or floor *space* or a protective enclosure protected as follows:
 1. In concealed locations where aluminum tube or copper tube is installed through holes or notches in studs, joists, or similar members less than 1-1/2 in. (38 mm) from the nearest edge of the member, the tube *shall* be protected by steel shield plates having a minimum thickness of 0.0575 in. (1.463 mm) (No. 16 gage).
 2. Protective steel shield plates *shall* cover the area of the tube where the member is notched or bored and *shall* extend not less than 2 in. (51 mm) above sole plates and below top plates.
- b. Exposed inside of a building at an elevation that is more than 7 ft 3 in. (2.2 m) above the finished floor unless the *piping* is placed within 72 in. (1830 mm) of the *appliance* to which it connects.
- c. In an *attic* or *crawl space*, provided that aluminum tube or copper tube *shall* be protected in accordance with Section 8.5.1.1(a) when located within 1-1/2 in. (38 mm) from the nearest edge of a framing member.

Exception to 8.5.1.1(c): Protective steel plates are not required in locations where the *refrigerant piping* is exposed.

- d. In concrete floors, provided that *refrigerant piping shall* be encased in pipe, conduit, or *ducts*. The *refrigerant piping shall* be protected to prevent damage from vibration, stress, and corrosion.
- e. Outside the building in accordance with the following:
 - 1. Protected from damage from the weather, including but not limited to hail, ice, and snow loads
 - 2. Protected from damage where located in an expected foot or traffic path
 - 3. Underground below the frost line and not less than 8 in. (20.3 cm) below finished grade

8.5.1.2 Prohibited Locations. *Refrigerant piping shall not* be installed in any of the following locations:

- a. Exposed within a fire resistance rated exit *access* corridor
- b. Exposed within an interior exit stairway
- c. Exposed within an interior exit ramp enclosure
- d. Exit passageway
- e. Elevator, dumbwaiter, or other shaft containing a moving object
- f. Inside an *air duct* or return air *plenum*

8.5.1.3* Refrigerant Pipe Shafts. *Refrigerant piping* that penetrates two or more floor assemblies *shall* be enclosed in a fire resistance rated shaft enclosure where such enclosure is required by the *building code*.

8.5.1.4 Exposed Piping Surface Temperature. Exposed *piping* with *ready access* having temperatures greater than 120°F (49°C) or less than 5°F (–15°C) *shall* be protected from contact or have thermal insulation that limits the exposed insulation surface temperature to a range of 5°F (–15°C) to 120°F (49°C).

8.5.1.5 Pipe Support. *Piping shall* be supported at intervals specified in Table 8-5 or in accordance with ANSI/MSS SP-58³⁰.

Interpretation: Reused piping is not required to comply with other sections of 8.5 since it is not referenced in the reused piping section.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: No

Comments: The exclusion in Section (10.5.4.2) only applies to determining if reused piping is required to be exposed for testing and inspection.