



# HVAC BASICS, CODES, AND FUNDAMENTALS

FEBRUARY 8, 2023



Who – team intro



Why – Intent of  
Basics /  
Fundamentals



Overview of codes



Reliability and  
Redundancy



O&Ms



Preventative  
Maintenance  
Considerations

# TEAM INTRO

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# WHY – INTENT / FUNDAMENTALS

## WILL

- Review Basics
- Review the “How”
  - Heat
  - Water
  - Air
  - Etc.

## WILL NOT

- Review Intricate Controls Schemes
- Review Complex Building Systems



# HVAC BASICS

## Building Systems Fundamentals to:

- Move Air
- Move Water
- Move Heat
- Move Moisture (different from water)

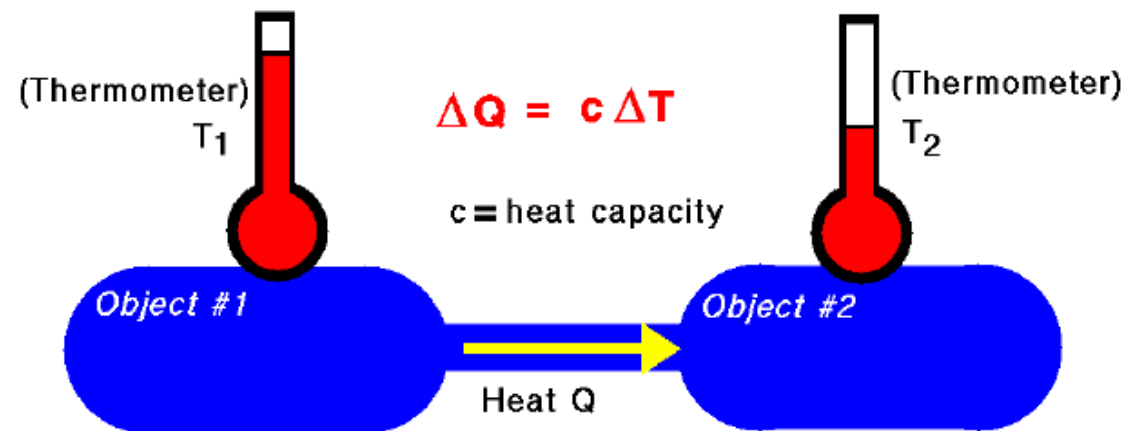
## Equipment:

- Air Handling Units / Fans
- Chillers
- Pumps
- Boilers
- Steam Generators



## Heat Transfer

Glenn  
Research  
Center

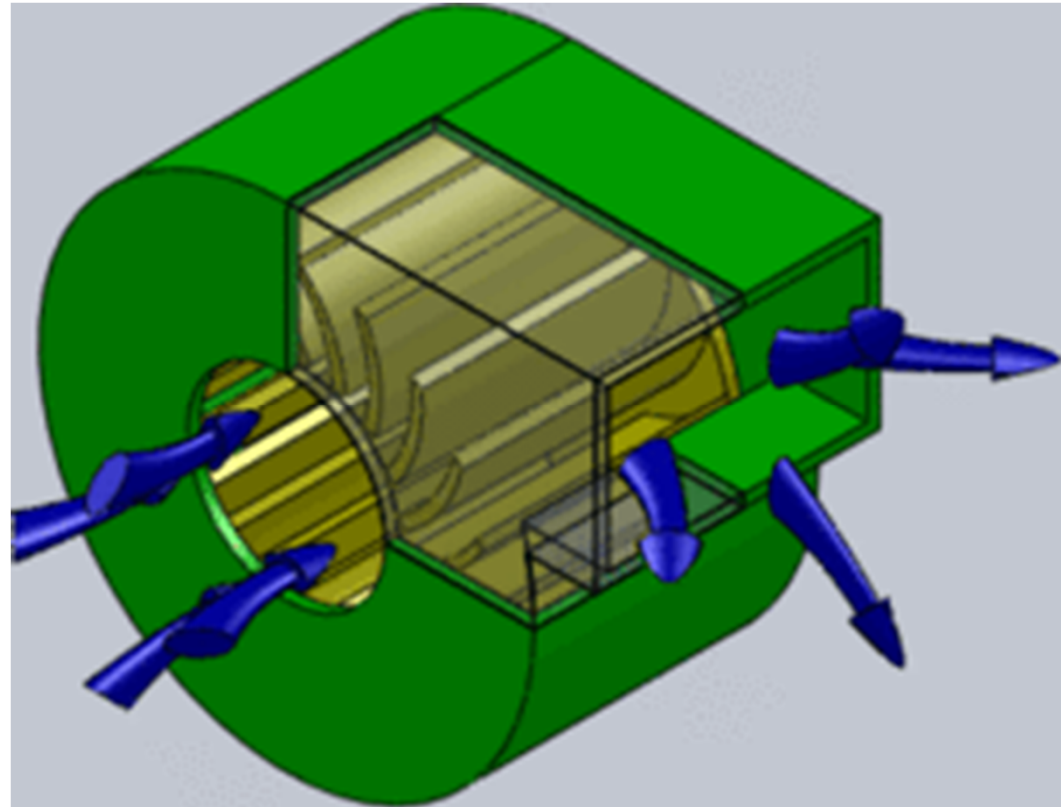


In the process of reaching thermodynamic equilibrium, heat is transferred from the warmer object to the cooler object. At thermodynamic equilibrium heat transfer is zero.

# HVAC BASICS

## Fans:

- Move Air
- Located Stand-Alone, or Within AHUs
- Require Power
- Key Units – Static Pressure (“ w.c.), Volume (CFM), Power (HP)



## AIR HANDLING UNIT TYPES

**Custom Units** – High Acuity, Expensive, Complex

**Modular Units** – High Acuity, Economical, Less Complex

**DX Units** – Low Acuity, Economical, Simple/Basic (Typically)

**Package Systems** – Low Acuity, Very Economical, Simple/Basic

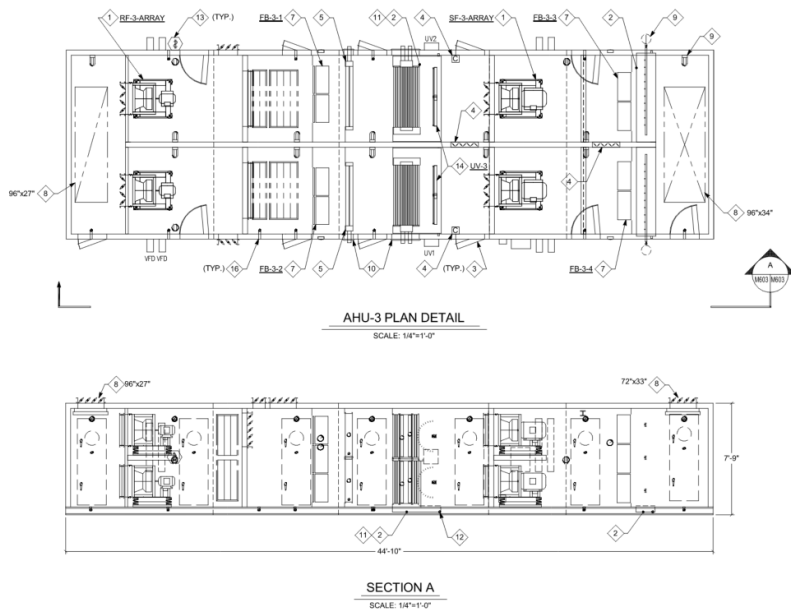
**Split Systems** – Supplemental for Process Loading, Economical

**VRF** – Supplemental for Process Loading, Complex, Expensive, Efficient

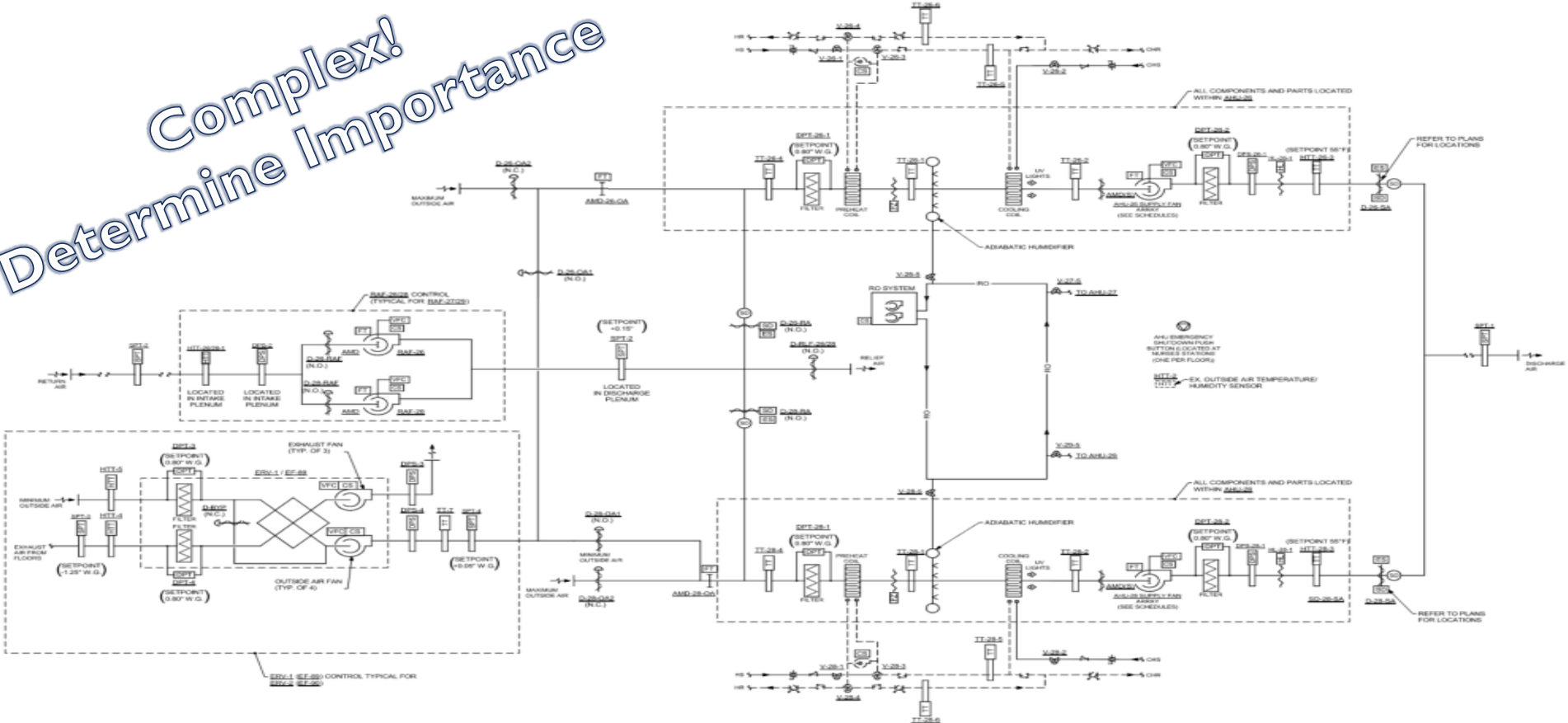
**CRAC** – For Large Process Loading, Typically Data Center, Complex, Expensive

# AIR HANDLING UNIT TYPES

## Custom Units – High Acuity, Expensive, Complex



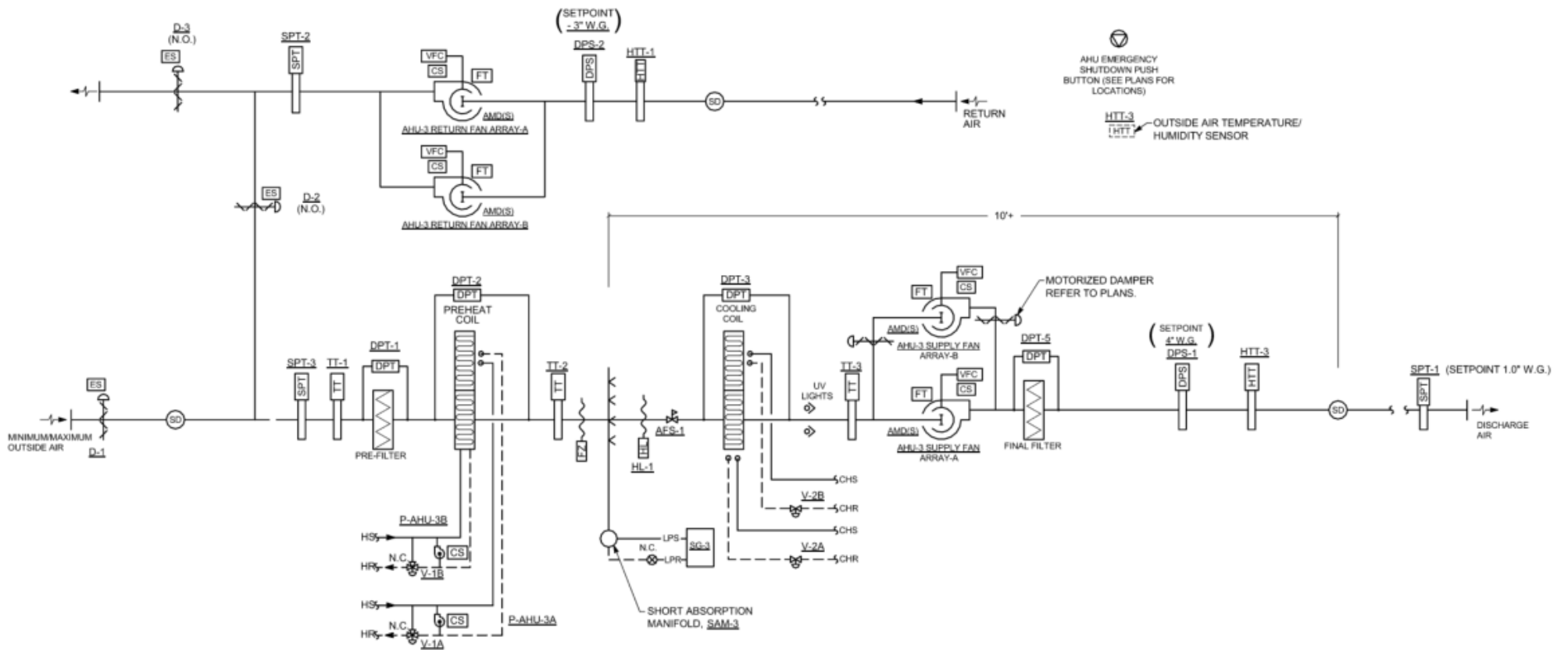
# Complex! Determine Importance



# AIR HANDLING UNIT TYPES

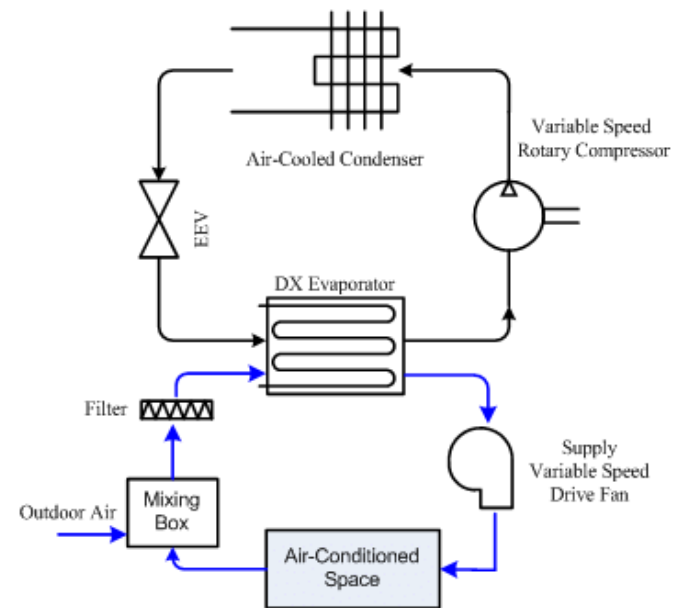
## Modular Units – High Acuity, Economical, Less Complex





# AIR HANDLING UNIT TYPES

**DX / Packaged Units** – Low Acuity, Economical, Simple/Basic (Typically)





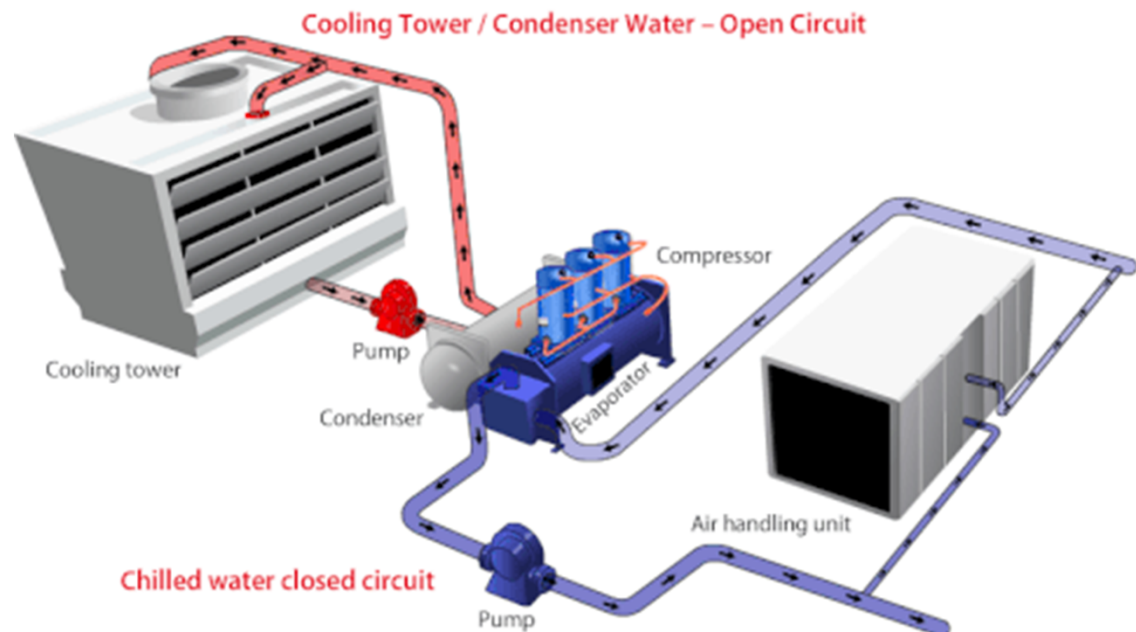
## VRF – Supplemental for Process Loading, Complex, Expensive, Efficient



# HVAC BASICS

## Chilled Water:

- Generate Chilled Water
- Located (Typically) in Plants
- Require Power
- Key Units – Pressure (feet of head, PSI), Volume (GPM), Power (HP), Voltage (V), Temperatures (EWT, LWT, °F)



## CHILLER TYPES – AIR COOLED

Heat Rejection to Air

Located Outside

- Atmosphere considerations

Good for Low Acuity Applications

Reduced First Cost

Low Efficiency



## CHILLER TYPES – WATER COOLED

Heat Rejection to Water (Cooling Tower)

Located Inside

- Central Utility Plant Considerations
- Refrigerant Purge System

Good for High Acuity Applications

Increased First Cost

High Efficiency (Even with Tower Fans)



## CHILLED TYPES WATER COOLED

Heat Rejection to Water (Cooling Tower)

Located Inside

- Central Utility Plant Considerations
- Refrigerant Purge System

Good for High Acuity Applications

Increased First Cost

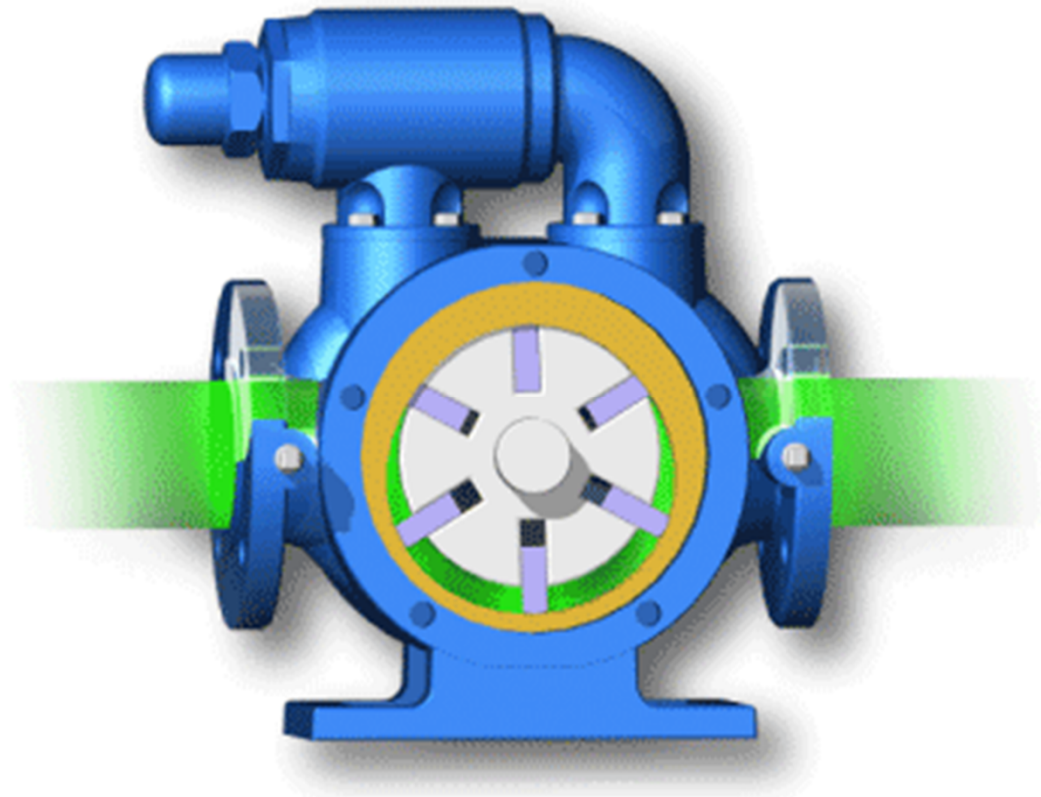
High Efficiency (Even with Tower Fans)



# HVAC BASICS

## Pumps:

- Move Water
- Located (Typically) in Plants
- Require Power
- Key Units – Pressure (feet of head), Volume (GPM), Power (HP)



# PUMPING SYSTEMS

## Different Strategies Based on Facility Needs

- Variable Primary
- Primary Secondary

## System Considerations

- Chilled Water System
- Condenser Water System

## Energy Efficiency Considerations

## Controllability

- Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)
- Differential Pressure (DP) Transmitters

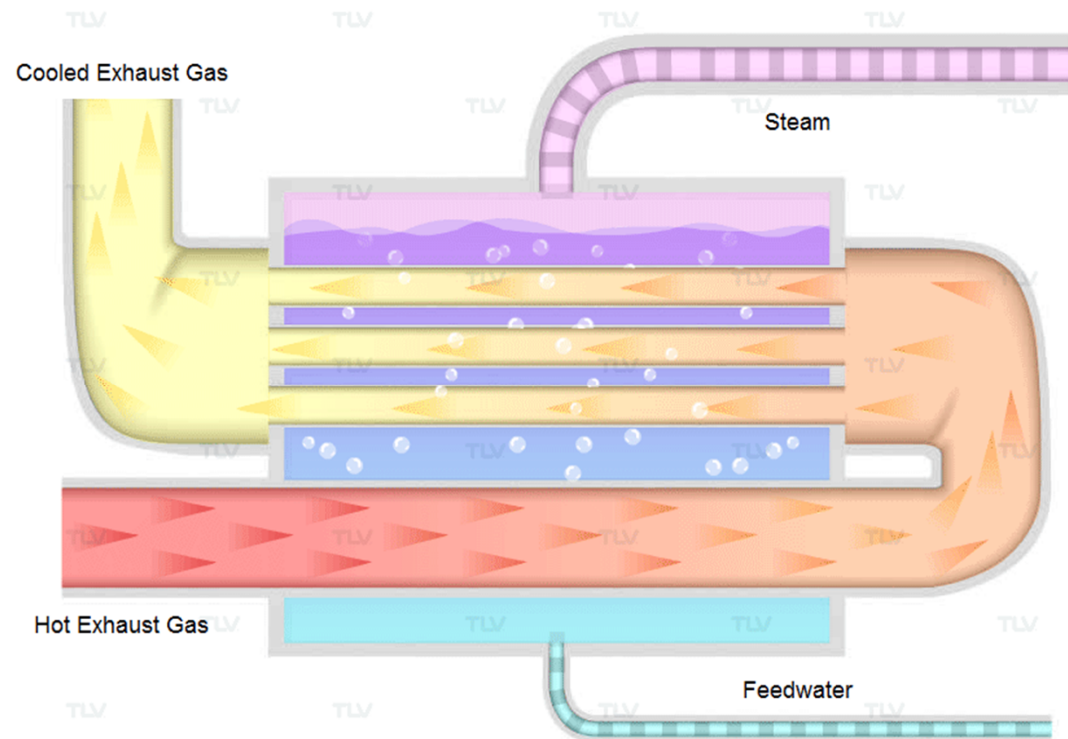




# HVAC BASICS

## Boilers:

- Generate Hot Water / Steam
- Located (Typically) in Plants
- Require Fuel (or Power)
- Key Units – Pressure (feet of head, PSI), Volume (GPM, Lb/Hr), Temperatures (EWT, LWT, °F)



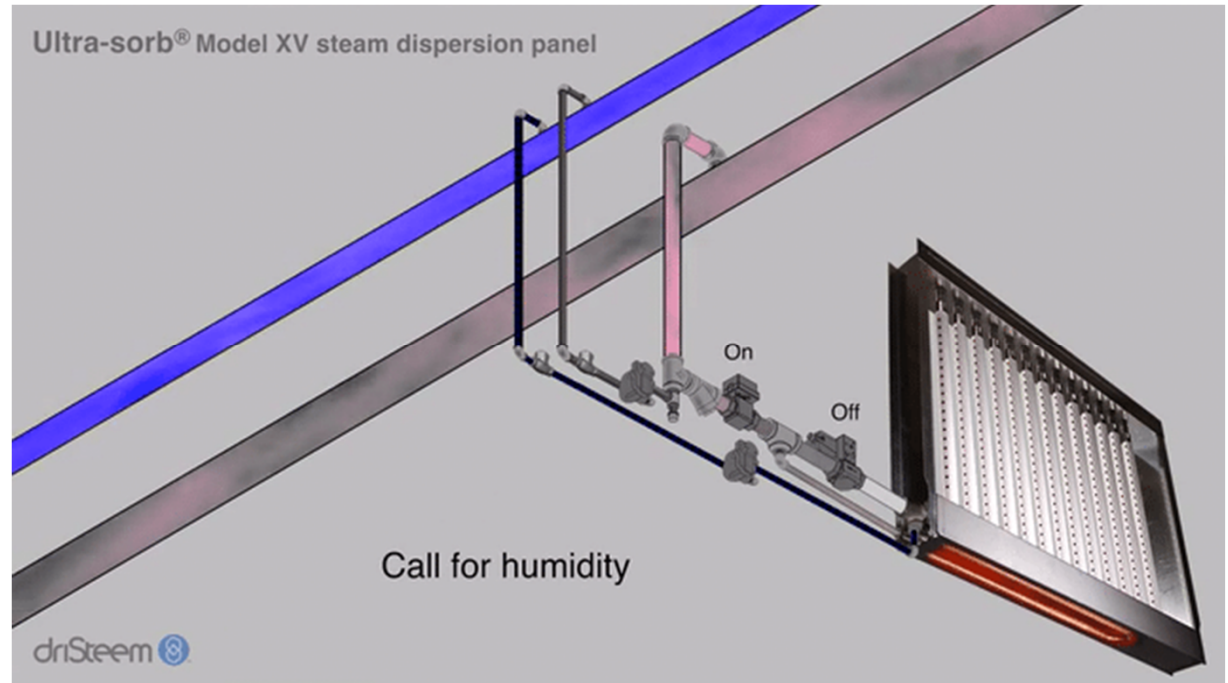
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# HVAC BASICS

## Humidification:

- Increase Moisture in Air
- Located (Typically) in AHUs
- Require Steam
- Key Units –  
Pressure (PSI),  
Volume (Lb/Hr)



# OVERVIEW OF CODES

Federal Guidelines Institute (FGI – Outpatient Facilities) – 2018

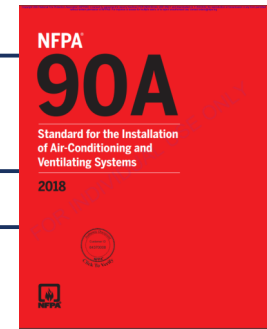
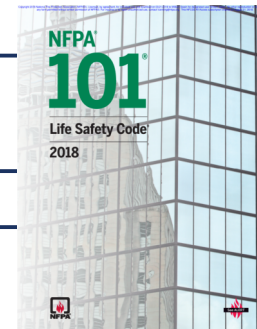
- ASHRAE 170 – 2021 (no longer 2017)

NFPA

- NFPA-101
- NFPA-90A
- NFPA-80
- NFPA-70 (NEC)

North Carolina Building/Mechanical/Plumbing/Fire Code

ASHRAE – 90.1, 62.1, 55, 15



# RELIABILITY AND REDUNDANCY

What does Code say?

What is Risk Aversion?

What are Users' Needs?

Energy Consumption

# RELIABILITY AND REDUNDANCY

- What Does Code Say - Healthcare

## 6.1 Utilities

**6.1.1 Ventilation Upon Loss of Electrical Power:** The space ventilation and pressure relationship requirements of Tables 7-1, 8-1, and 9-1 shall be maintained for the following spaces, even in the event of loss of normal electrical power.

- a. All rooms
- b. Protective environment (PE) rooms (inpatient only)
- c. Operating rooms (ORs), including delivery rooms (Cesarean) (inpatient and outpatient only)

**Exception to 6.1.1:** When an essential power system is not provided or required, operation of space ventilation and pressure relationships is not required.

**Informative Note:** For further information, see NFPA 99 (2021) in Informative Appendix E.

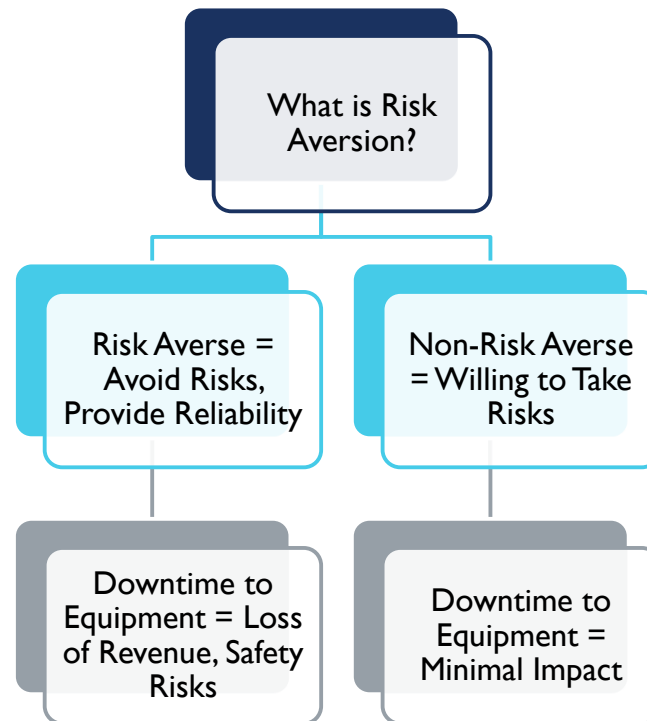
## 6.1.2 Heating and Cooling Sources

**6.1.2.1** Provide heat sources and essential accessories in number and arrangement sufficient to accommodate the facility needs (reserve capacity), even when any one of the heat sources or essential accessories is not operating due to a breakdown or routine maintenance. The capacity of the remaining source or sources shall be sufficient to provide for domestic hot water, sterilization, and dietary purposes and to provide heating for operating, delivery, birthing, labor, recovery, emergency, intensive care, nursery, and resident care areas and inpatient/resident rooms. Fuel sufficient to support the owner's facility operation plan upon loss of fuel service shall be provided on site.

**Exception to 6.1.2.1:** Reserve capacity is not required if the ASHRAE 99% heating dry-bulb temperature for the facility is greater than or equal to 25°F (−4°C).

**6.1.2.2 Inpatient and Residential Health Care Spaces.** For central cooling systems greater than 400 tons (1407 kW) peak cooling load, the number and arrangement of cooling sources and essential accessories shall be sufficient to support the owner's facility operation plan upon a breakdown or routine maintenance of any one of the cooling sources.

# RELIABILITY AND REDUNDANCY



Where do you think your users land?

# RELIABILITY AND REDUNDANCY



- What are Users' Needs?
  - Executive?
  - Clinical?
  - Operations
  - Maintenance
  - Others?

# RELIABILITY AND REDUNDANCY



## **Energy Consumption v. Intended Use**

Must Consider the “Costs” of Each  
Cannot Sacrifice Use/Intent for Energy (in some cases)



## **Typically Means More Robust Systems, Not Necessarily Most Efficient**

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

What is  
required?

What is best  
practice?

Why  
important.



## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

### What is Required?

- Refer to ASHRAE 62.1 – Chapter 8
- Develop a Plan

# OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE – WHAT IS REQUIRED?

**Table 8-1 Minimum Maintenance Activity and Frequency for Ventilation System Equipment and Associated Components**

Inspection/Maintenance Task		
m. Check for proper operation of cooling or heating coil for damage or evidence of leaks. Clean, restore, or replace as required.		Semiannually
n. Visually inspect outdoor air intake louvers, bird screens, mist eliminators, and adjacent areas for cleanliness and integrity; clean as needed; remove all visible debris or visible biological material observed and repair physical damage to louvers, screens, or mist eliminators to prevent air entry.		Semiannually
o. Visually inspect natural ventilation system. Remove all visible debris and repair physical damage if such damage impacts the operation of the apparatus shall be performed.		
p. Verify the operation of the system.		
q. Check air filter fit and condition.		
r. Check control box for proper operation.		
s. Check motor contactors for proper operation.		
t. Check fan blades and motor for proper operation.		
u. Check integrity of all electrical equipment.		
v. Assess field service records.		
w. Check drain pans, dehumidifiers, and wetting. Repair and replace as needed.		
x. Check for evidence of biological growth.		
y. Inspect unit for evidence of biological growth as necessary.		
z. Check for proper damper operation. Clean, lubricate, repair, replace, or adjust as needed to ensure proper operation.		Annually
aa. Visually inspect areas of moisture accumulation for biological growth. If present, clean or disinfect as needed.		Annually
a. Minimum frequencies may be increased or decreased if indicated in the O&M manual.		

**Table 8-1 Minimum Maintenance Activity and Frequency for Ventilation System Equipment and Associated Components (Continued)**

Inspection/Maintenance Task	Frequency <sup>a</sup>
ab. Check condensate pump. Clean or replace as needed.	Annually
ac. Visually inspect exposed ductwork and external piping for insulation and vapor barrier for integrity. Correct as needed.	Annually
ad. Verify the accuracy of permanently mounted sensors whose primary function is outdoor air delivery monitoring, outdoor air delivery verification, or dynamic minimum outdoor air control, such as flow stations at an air handler and those used for demand control ventilation, including CO <sub>2</sub> sensors. A sensor failing to meet the accuracy specified in the O&M manual shall be recalibrated or replaced. Performance verification shall include output comparison to a measurement reference standard consistent with those specified for similar devices in <a href="#">ASHRAE Standard 41.2</a> or <a href="#">ASHRAE Standard 111</a> .	5 years
ae. Verify the total quantity of outdoor air delivered by air handlers set to minimum outdoor air mode. If measured minimum airflow rates are less than the design minimum rate documented in the O&M manual, ± a 10% balancing tolerance, (1) confirm the measured rate does not conform with the provisions of this standard and (2) adjust or modify the air-handler components to correct the airflow deficiency. Ventilation systems shall be balanced in accordance with <a href="#">ASHRAE Standard 111</a> or its equivalent, at least to the extent necessary to verify conformance with the total outdoor airflow and space supply airflow requirements of this standard.	5 years
<b>Exception:</b> Units under 2000 cfm (1000 L/s) of supply air are exempt from this requirement.	

a. Minimum frequencies may be increased or decreased if indicated in the O&M manual.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

### What is Best Practice?

- Preventative Maintenance
- Code is Minimum Requirements
- What's best for facility
- Walk your building
- Check all equipment

# OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE – WHY IMPORTANT

- Hypothetical Example:
  - A custom air handling unit (AHU) serving an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) requires monthly PMs to ensure its longevity. It is 5 years old, and has all the “bells and whistles”. It was determined that replacing its filters was cumbersome and time consuming, and the filters seemed to be performing well, even though they haven’t been replaced in 24 months.
  - After continuous run time, particulate began to bypass filters and load up the freeze-stat, a crucial piece of hardware meant to protect the unit from freezing, and the cooling coil of the unit ultimately ruptured, causing significant damage.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE – WHY IMPORTANT

Replace Filters  
(Every 6  
Months):

Material:	\$3,668
Labor:	\$480
<b>24 Month Cost:</b>	<b>\$16,592</b>



React to  
Damaged Coil:

Filter Material:	\$3,668
Filter Labor:	\$480
Coil Material:	\$14,678
Coil Labor:	\$6,520
Ancillary Damage:	\$25,000?
Operation Downtime:	\$60,000?
<b>24 Month Cost:</b>	<b>\$25,366 + \$85,000</b>

Was it worth it?