



Air Balancing

Tenant and employee comfort is of paramount concern to building owners and managers because it directly affects the bottom line. When the environment is uncomfortable, tenants are uncomfortable and refuse to renew their leases. Prospective tenants aren't interested in signing up either. And employee productivity decreases. You may even lose money in the form of energy because your building runs inefficiently. Having a properly balanced building is the key to a comfortable work environment.

Building owners or managers who experience chronic problems with their heating and cooling equipment frequently blame the HVAC equipment. In many cases, the problem is not with the system but with how the air is being circulated. Thoroughly addressing the air distribution system—including fans, ductwork and conduit dampers—is an important course of action. An air balance survey performed by a certified Air Comfort test and balance technician will help diagnose the problem.

MANY FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO PROBLEMS

There are many factors which can lead to air balancing problems in a building. Perhaps the building was never balanced properly in the first place. Standard procedure calls for a complete air balance upon completion of system installation; however, this procedure is often eliminated to save money. This can result in even the most sophisticated or well-engineered system not performing to design specifications.

Another cause of air balancing problems is interior renovation. Walls being taken out or moved, or new walls being installed, can have profound effects on the ventilation system.

Finally, some systems just seem to develop problems gradually over time.

DETECTING THE PROBLEM

Air Comfort can detect the air balance problem by performing a thorough survey of the building, which includes the use of a microprocessor on-site to determine the velocity of air and water in the HVAC system, and to literally

“balance” the proportion of fresh air in the building. Our team is prepared with a full arsenal of the most advanced balancing equipment in the industry.



EVALUATING THE PROBLEM: EQUIPMENT OR BALANCING?

There are specific indicators which may reveal inadequacies in the balancing:

- Are some rooms always cool in the summer while others seem to be too warm? Does the situation reverse in the winter?
- Does the air distribution system emanate noise either at the register or from the ducts?
- Have there been any interim changes such as walls being moved without adjustments to the circulation system?
- Does the space seem “stuffy” or have a stagnant air quality?



SOLUTIONS FROM A QUALIFIED SOURCE

Once a qualified Air Comfort technician determines that the comfort issues are attributable to an air balancing problem, the only solution is to address the entire air distribution system. If a system is not balanced properly, there will be a lack of air quality in some areas and too much air in other spaces.

Sometimes the modification required is a relatively minor adjustment of dampers or fan speeds. More serious problems may require changes in the configuration of ductwork. Whatever the problem, it is important to choose a solution based on accurate information and a thorough understanding of the problem's real source. A certified Air Comfort test and balance technician is your best source of accurate information. Make sure you are using a qualified professional. Your

building occupancy rate and employee productivity may depend on it. Call Air Comfort today for your air balance survey needs: (708)345-1900 in Illinois, (219)769-8970 in Indiana.

Air Comfort Corporation was founded in 1935 as an engineering company and equipment distributor for Dr. Willis H. Carrier's air conditioning products. Since then, we have been servicing the Chicagoland and northwest Indiana areas with offices in both Illinois and Indiana.

Our company is a full-service HVAC provider specializing in a complete range of products and services, including the design and installation of new equipment, retrofits of existing systems, comprehensive maintenance programs and emergency service. Our mission is to provide our customers with outstanding quality, reliability and performance. "Air Comfort—Dedicated to Quality Since 1935."

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QUALITY, RELIABILITY

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