

comfort zone

ISSUE 1:VOL 6

In This Issue

Rooftops Ready for Summer

The Refrigerant Outlook

One Link of the Chain



Rooftops Ready for Summer


Most of us are ready for summer after the long, cold winter, but are your rooftop units ready for the heat?

Warmer weather requires packaged rooftop units to work harder.

Now is a great time to have your service provider check over your units to make sure airflow has not diminished and that refrigerant systems are fully charged.

Inspecting, checking, and cleaning your units are the keys to reliable, long-term unit operation. At the beginning of each cooling season, the cooling section should be inspected and cleaned to ensure proper operation and efficiency. Filters should be checked to meet airflow requirements. Cooling coils must be checked for blocked airflow. Your service provider should also clean drain pans, check to see that drain lines are clean, and check that there are no cracks or leaks in the condensate trap that might interfere with drainage from the unit.

Here are a few other checks that should take place:

- Make sure condenser coil fins are clean and free of debris
- Check that all condensing fans are operating properly
- Check belts for wear and replace as necessary
- Check belt tension and alignment
- Check for proper refrigerant operating points
- Check superheat settings on thermal expansion valves
- Check subcooling from the condenser
- Verify that the compressor crankcase heater is turning on and operating properly when the compressor turns off
- Check controls and settings to make sure the economizer only operates when it is supposed to 

The Refrigerant Outlook

On December 28, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency proposed two rules for the next stage of HCFC phase-out. Those rules were finalized in December of 2009:

- “Allocation Rule”—reduces the amount of HCFCs produced to 25% of the initial baseline and prohibits the sale of equipment pre-charged with virgin HCFCs
- “Pre-Charged Appliance Rule”—created a ban on the installation of equipment containing HCFC refrigerants

The finalized rules became effective January 1, 2010:

- Servicing of existing R-22 air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment will not be interrupted but the availability of the refrigerant is limited.
- There is no impact on existing inventories of components manufactured prior to January 1, 2010.
- The annual step-down of virgin R-22 cap from 2010 to 2014 is set below estimated demand.

- There is a two-year grandfathering period for projects with building permits issued in 2009. This exemption stands until December 31, 2011.

There are some exemptions to the rule.

- Thermostatic expansion valves pre-charged with R-22 are exempt from the ban until January 1, 2015.
- R-22 appliances for projects permitted or contracted prior to January 1, 2010 can still be manufactured.
- Appliances can be manufactured using reclaimed refrigerant.

The table below illustrates the predicted R-22 supply through 2014.

The EPA requires record-keeping on air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment with a charge size of 50 pounds or greater. There is a maximum annual leak rate of 15% for air-conditioning equipment and 35% for refrigeration equipment. The equipment owner is legally responsible for maintenance and record-keeping, but most look to a qualified service contractor for assistance as each violation carries a potential fine of \$32,000. ☐

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Estimated Demand (pounds)	137.8 MM	127.6 MM	117.3 MM	106.7 MM	96.1 MM
Allocation (pounds)	110.2 MM	100 MM	89.7 MM	79.1 MM	68.6 MM
Reclaim Gap (pounds)	27.6 MM	27.6 MM	27.6 MM	27.6 MM	27.5 MM

Employee Spotlight

Name: Ed Raftery

Position: Vice President, Construction

Years at Air Comfort: 40

Major job responsibilities:

Accountable for all work done in the construction department

For me, a perfect day at work is:

When there is enough work that my field people are able to get 40 hours during the week

The best part about my job is:

Working with all the great Air Comfort employees

Family: Wife Linda (40 years), son Jamison, daughter Dawn, and grandkids, Samantha Paige, Junior and Rocky

If I could do it all over again,

I would: Do it all over again

Three words that best describe

me: Funny, honest, generous

If a movie was made about my life, the title would be ____ and ____ would



star in it: All of Chevy Chase vacation movies

Three bad habits: Overeating, occasional cigarette, lack of exercising

Favorite concert experience: So many it's hard to choose! Elton John in Vegas, Huey Lewis & The News in Maui, and the great Madonna—escorted by six women!

The best advice I ever received was: While serving in the USMC, I received a letter from my father with a pipefitter application. He suggested I fill it out because it would be a great investment.

Dream vacation: Maintaining my health and growing old with my wife Linda! ☐

A Word from the President

As we recognize Air Comfort's 75th Anniversary this year, I want to say a special THANK YOU to all our employees, both past and present, as well as our loyal customers, who have made Air Comfort the company that it is today.

Over the past 75 years we have encountered numerous challenges and endured some truly tough times. With each and every obstacle, our people have risen to meet these challenges and have seen us through to better days. We have seen success and achieved great accomplishments over the years, and it has always been our dedicated personnel who have made the difference.

As we look forward to the years ahead, I am especially proud and most appreciative of the great team we have at this company. I know that our employees, with our customers' best interests at heart, will continue the tradition of excellence set forth 75 years ago, and will continue to make Air Comfort truly special. Here's to another 75 years of making a difference!

Thank you!

Tim Smerz
President ☐

Most equipment owners look to a **qualified** service contractor for **assistance**.



Blaster's Trivia



1. Name the Chicago Blackhawks goaltender who was the Vezina Trophy winner in 1935.
2. True or False: Babe Ruth hit the last home run of his career in 1935.
3. Who was the Chicago Bears' head coach in 1935?
4. Who was the governor of Indiana in 1935?
5. All of the following songs but one was #1 at some point in 1935. Which one was not?
"Red Sails in the Sunset"—Bing Crosby
"Truckin'"—Fats Waller
"And Then Some"—Ozzie Nelson
"Stardust"—Hoagy Carmichael

If you know the answers to all five questions, contact Carol at 708.345.1900 x5092 or email williams@aircomfort.com. ☎

Air Comfort

Air Comfort is a full-service HVAC provider specializing in design and installation of new equipment, retrofits of existing systems, maintenance programs and emergency service.

2550 Braga Drive
Broadview, Illinois
60155

☎ 708.345.1900
☎ 708.345.2730

aircomfort.com

Air Comfort

2550 Braga Drive
Broadview, Illinois
60155



THE UNIFIED GROUP
together we make the difference

We are an independent association of the country's elite HVAC commercial contractors. We help our members increase productivity, profitability and customer retention, and we also provide a network for national and regional customer business solutions. Visit us at www.theunifiedgroup.com.