

**SECTION 23 05 41  
NOISE AND VIBRATION CONTROL FOR HVAC PIPING AND EQUIPMENT**

SPEC WRITER NOTES:

1. Delete between // ---- // if not applicable to project. Also delete any other item or paragraph not applicable in the Section and renumber the paragraphs.
2. Provide the year of latest edition to each publication given in paragraph APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS.

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

- A. This section specifies the application of noise control measures, //seismic restraints for equipment, // tolerance and vibration isolation for HVAC work, and vibration control techniques to boiler plant rotating equipment and parts including chillers, cooling towers, boilers, pumps, fans, compressors, motors, and steam turbines.
- B. A complete listing of common acronyms and abbreviations are included in Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

- A. Section 01 00 00, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.
- B. Section 01 33 23, SHOP DRAWINGS, PRODUCT DATA and SAMPLES.
- C. Section 01 81 13, SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.
- D. //Section 13 05 41, SEISMIC RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS.//
- E. Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.
- F. Section 23 31 00, HVAC DUCTS and CASINGS.

**1.3 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS**

SPEC WRITER NOTES:

1. Make material requirements agree with requirements specified in the referenced Applicable Publications. Verify and update the publication list to that which applies to the project unless the reference applies to all HVAC systems. Publications that apply to all HVAC systems may not be specifically referenced in the body of the specification but shall form a part of this specification.
2. Insert the year of approved latest edition of the publications between the brackets // // and delete the brackets if applicable to this project.

- A. The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referenced in the text by the basic designation only. Where conflicts occur these specifications and the VHA standards will govern.
- B. American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE):  
ASCE 7-//2016//.....Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures
- C. American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE):  
Handbook-//2019//.....ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Applications  
Handbook-//2021//.....ASHRAE Handbook - Fundamentals, Chapter 8, Sound and Vibration
- D. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):  
A123/A123M-//2017//.....Standard Specification for Zinc (Hot-Dip Galvanized) Coatings on Iron and Steel Products  
A307-//2021//.....Standard Specification for Carbon Steel Bolts, Studs, and Threaded Rod 60,000 PSI Tensile Strength  
B117-//2019//.....Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus  
D2240-//2015(R2021)//...Standard Test Method for Rubber Property - Durometer Hardness
- E. International Code Council (ICC):  
IBC-//2021//.....International Building Code
- F. Manufacturers Standardization Society (MSS):  
SP-58-//2018//.....Pipe Hangers and Supports - Materials, Design, Manufacture, Selection, Application, and Installation
- G. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):  
29 CFR 1910.95.....Occupational Noise Exposure
- H. Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor's National Association (SMACNA):  
001-//2008//.....Seismic Restraint Manual: Guidelines for Mechanical Systems, 3rd Edition
- I. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):  
H-18-8-//2019(R2020)//..Seismic Design Requirements  
PG-18-10-//2017(R2021)// HVAC Design Manual

**1.4 SUBMITTALS**

- A. Submittals, including number of required copies, shall be submitted in accordance with Section 01 33 23, SHOP DRAWINGS, PRODUCT DATA, and SAMPLES.
- B. Information and material submitted under this section shall be marked "SUBMITTED UNDER SECTION 23 XX XX, SECTION TITLE", with applicable paragraph identification.
- C. Manufacturer's Literature and Data Including: Full item description and optional features and accessories. Include dimensions, weights, materials, applications, standard compliance, model numbers, size, and capacity.
  - 1. Vibration isolators:
    - a. Floor mountings
    - b. Hangers
    - c. Snubbers
    - d. Thrust restraints
  - 2. Bases.
  - 3. //Seismic restraint provisions and bolting.//
  - 4. Acoustical enclosures.
- D. Isolator manufacturer shall furnish with submittal load calculations for selection of isolators, including supplemental bases, based on lowest operating speed of equipment supported.
- E. //Seismic Requirements: Submittals are required for all equipment anchors, supports and seismic restraints. Submittals shall include weights, dimensions, standard connections, and manufacturer's certification that all specified equipment will withstand seismic Lateral Force requirements as shown in the contract documents.//

**1.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- A. Bio-Based Materials: For products designated by the USDA's Bio-Preferred Program, provide products that meet or exceed USDA recommendations for bio-based content, so long as products meet all performance requirements in this specifications section. For more information regarding the product categories covered by the Bio-Preferred Program, visit <http://www.biopreferred.gov>.
- B. Refer to Section 01 81 13, SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS for additional sustainable design requirements.

## SPEC WRITER NOTES:

- 1. The designer shall perform an acoustic analysis, as stipulated in the VA HVAC

Design Manual, to ensure compliance with the specified Room Design NC Levels. The designer is responsible for evaluating and controlling equipment noise and shall select equipment, specify sound ratings, and provide attenuators so that noise criteria listed below, local noise ordinance levels, and OSHA requirements will not be exceeded. It is recognized that for the rooms equipped with self-contained cooling units, room noise levels cannot be no more than 5 dB higher than the specified values.

2. Edit list of rooms and NC levels to suit specific project being designed. Add rooms and NC levels if required.

B. Noise Criteria:

1. Perform an acoustic analysis to demonstrate that the specified room noise levels are achieved in all octave bands for all air-handling units, heating and ventilating units, fans, chillers, boilers, generators, and outdoor noise producing equipment, such as cooling towers and chillers. Refer to VA HVAC Design Manual Chapter 6 Room Data Sheets for the required Noise Criteria (NC) levels. If the necessary room type is not listed in Chapter 6 of VA HVAC Design Manual then consult the ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Applications. The analysis shall consider both air duct borne noise and noise transmission through walls, floors and roofs and shall be completed for all duct systems and all HVAC equipment.
2. For equipment which has no sound power ratings scheduled on the plans, the contractor shall select equipment such that the foregoing noise criteria, local ordinance noise levels, and OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95 requirements are not exceeded. Selection procedure shall be in accordance with ASHRAE Handbook - Fundamentals, Chapter 8, Sound and Vibration.
3. An allowance, not to exceed 5 db, may be added to the measured value to compensate for the variation of the room attenuating effect between room test condition prior to occupancy and design condition after occupancy which may include the addition of sound absorbing material, such as, furniture. This allowance may not be taken after occupancy. The room attenuating effect is defined as the difference

between sound power level emitted to room and sound pressure level in room.

4. In absence of specified measurement requirements, measure equipment noise levels three feet from equipment and at an elevation of maximum noise generation.

C. //Seismic Restraint Requirements:

SPEC WRITER NOTES:

1. Brace equipment in accordance with Seismic Design Categories B, C, D, E, and F and Importance Factor as defined in ASCE-7. Brace ductwork and piping in accordance with the above guidelines as well as the Seismic Hazard Level as found in the SMACNA Seismic Restraint Manual.
2. Refer to VA Seismic Design Requirements Handbook 18-8.

1. Equipment:

- a. All mechanical equipment not supported with isolators external to the unit shall be securely anchored to the structure. Such mechanical equipment shall be properly supported to resist a horizontal force of //50// //20// percent of the weight of the equipment furnished.
- b. All mechanical equipment mounted on vibration isolators shall be provided with seismic restraints capable of resisting a horizontal force of //100// //50// percent of the weight of the equipment furnished.

2. Piping: Refer to Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.

3. Ductwork: Refer to Section 23 31 00, HVAC DUCTS AND CASINGS.//

- D. Allowable Vibration Tolerances for Rotating, Non-reciprocating Equipment: Not to exceed a self-excited vibration maximum velocity of 5 mm per second (0.20 inch per second) RMS, filter in, when measured with a vibration meter on bearing caps of machine in vertical, horizontal, and axial directions or measured at equipment mounting feet if bearings are concealed. Measurements for internally isolated fans and motors may be made at the mounting feet.

**1.6 AS-BUILT DOCUMENTATION**

- A. Comply with requirements in paragraph AS-BUILT DOCUMENTATION of Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.

## **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

### **2.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Type of isolator, base, and minimum static deflection shall be as required for each specific equipment application as recommended by isolator or equipment manufacturer. Refer to ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Applications Chapter 49, Noise and Vibration Control, Table 47 for selection guide for Vibration Isolation.
- B. Elastomeric isolators shall comply with ASTM D2240 and be oil resistant neoprene with a maximum stiffness of 60 durometer and have a straight-line deflection curve.
- C. Exposure to Weather: Isolator housings to be either hot dipped galvanized or powder coated to ASTM B117 salt spray testing standards. Springs to be powder coated or electro galvanized. All hardware to be electro galvanized. In addition, provide limit stops to resist wind velocity. Velocity pressure established by wind shall be calculated in accordance with Section 1609 of the International Building Code. A minimum wind velocity of 75 mph shall be employed.
- D. Uniform Loading: Select and locate isolators to produce uniform loading and deflection even when equipment weight is not evenly distributed.
- E. Color code isolators by type and size for easy identification of capacity.

### **2.2 SEISMIC RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUIPMENT**

- A. Bolt pad mounted equipment, without vibration isolators, to the floor or other support using ASTM A307 standard bolting material.
- B. Provide floor mounted equipment with Type SS vibration Isolators. Where Type N isolators are used provide channel frame base horizontal restraints bolted to the floor, or other support, on all sides of the equipment. Size and material required for the base shall be as recommended by the isolator manufacturer.
- C. On all sides of suspended equipment, provide bracing for rigid supports and provide restraints for resiliently supported equipment.

### **2.3 VIBRATION ISOLATORS**

- A. Floor Mountings:
  - 1. Double Deflection Neoprene (Type N): Shall include neoprene covered steel support plated (top and bottom), friction pads, and necessary bolt holes.

SPEC WRITER NOTE: For projects in Seismic Design Category C, D, E, and F delete Types S, D, W and L. For projects in

Seismic Design Category B delete Type SS and snubbers.

2. Spring Isolators (Type S): Shall be free-standing, laterally stable and include acoustical friction pads and leveling bolts. Isolators shall have a minimum ratio of spring diameter-to-operating spring height of 1.0 and an additional travel to solid equal to 50 percent of rated deflection.
  3. Captive Spring Mount for Seismic Restraint (Type SS):
    - a. Design mounts to resiliently resist seismic forces in all directions. Snubbing shall take place in all modes with adjustment to limit upward, downward, and horizontal travel to a maximum of 6 mm (1/4 inch) before contacting snubbers. Mountings shall have a minimum rating of one G coefficient of gravity as calculated and certified by a registered structural engineer.
    - b. All mountings shall have leveling bolts that are rigidly bolted to the equipment. Spring diameters shall be no less than 0.8 of the compressed height of the spring at rated load. Springs shall have a minimum additional travel to solid equal to 50 percent of the rated deflection. Mountings shall have ports for spring inspection. Provide an all directional neoprene cushion collar around the equipment bolt.
  4. Spring Isolators with Vertical Limit Stops (Type SP): Similar to spring isolators noted above, except include a vertical limit stop to limit upward travel if weight is removed and also to reduce movement and spring extension due to wind loads. Provide clearance around restraining bolts to prevent mechanical short circuiting.  
//Isolators shall have a minimum seismic rating of one G.//
  5. Pads (Type D), Washers (Type W), and Bushings (Type L): Pads shall be natural rubber or neoprene waffle, neoprene and steel waffle, or reinforced duck and neoprene. Washers and bushings shall be reinforced duck and neoprene. Size pads for a maximum load of 345 kPa (50 pounds per square inch).
- B. Hangers: Shall be combination neoprene and springs unless otherwise noted and shall allow for expansion of pipe.
1. Combination Neoprene and Spring (Type H): Vibration hanger shall contain a spring and double deflection neoprene element in series. Spring shall have a diameter not less than 0.8 of compressed operating spring height. Spring shall have a minimum additional

travel of 50 percent between design height and solid height. Spring shall permit a 15 degree angular misalignment without rubbing on hanger box.

2. Hanger supports for piping 50 mm (2 inches) and greater shall have a pointer and scale deflection indicator.
- C. Snubbers: Each spring mounted base shall have a minimum of four all-directional or eight two directional (two per side) seismic snubbers that are double acting. Elastomeric materials shall be shock absorbent neoprene bridge quality bearing pads, maximum 60 durometer, replaceable and have a minimum thickness of 6 mm (1/4 inch). Air gap between hard and resilient material shall be not less than 3.2 mm (1/8 inch) nor greater than 6 mm (1/4 inch). Restraints shall be capable of withstanding design load without permanent deformation.
- D. Thrust Restraints (Type THR): Restraints shall provide a spring element contained in a steel frame with neoprene pads at each end attachment. Restraints shall have factory preset thrust and be field adjustable to allow a maximum movement of 6 mm (1/4 inch) when the fan starts and stops. Restraint assemblies shall include rods, angle brackets and other hardware for field installation.

#### **2.4 BASES**

- A. Rails (Type R): Design rails with isolator brackets to reduce mounting height of equipment and cradle machines having legs or bases that do not require a complete supplementary base. To assure adequate stiffness, height of members shall be a minimum of 1/12 of longest base dimension but not less than 100 mm (4 inches). Where rails are used with neoprene mounts for small fans or close coupled pumps, extend rails to compensate overhang of housing.
- B. Inertia Base (Type I): Base shall be a reinforced concrete inertia base. Pour concrete into a welded steel channel frame, incorporating prelocated equipment anchor bolts and pipe sleeves. Level the concrete to provide a smooth uniform bearing surface for equipment mounting. Provide grout under uneven supports. Channel depth shall be a minimum of 1/12 of longest dimension of base but not less than 152 mm (6 inches). Form shall include 13 mm (1/2 inch) reinforcing bars welded in place on minimum of 203 mm (8 inch) centers running both ways in a layer 38 mm (1-1/2 inches) above bottom. Use height saving brackets in all mounting locations. Weight of inertia base shall be equal to or

greater than weight of equipment supported to provide a maximum peak-to-peak displacement of 1.6 mm (1/16 inch).

- C. Curb Mounted Isolation Base (Type CB): Fabricate from aluminum to fit on top of standard curb with overlap to allow water run-off and have wind and water seals which shall not interfere with spring action. Provide resilient snubbers with 6 mm (1/4 inch) clearance for wind resistance. Top and bottom bearing surfaces shall have sponge type weather seals. Integral spring isolators shall comply with Spring Isolator (Type S) requirements.

## **2.5 SOUND ATTENUATING UNITS**

- A. Refer to Section 23 31 00, HVAC DUCTS and CASINGS.

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Acoustical enclosures are rarely required.

## **2.6 //ACOUSTICAL ENCLOSURES IN MECHANICAL ROOMS**

- A. Provide where shown in the contract documents. Enclosures shall be removable and sectional, of a size and weight that sections can be readily handled with typical lifting and moving equipment available in the equipment room. Enclosures shall contain access openings, observation ports, lights, and ventilation where required for normal operation, observation and servicing.//

## **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

### **3.1 INSTALLATION**

- A. If an installation is unsatisfactory to the COR, the contractor shall correct the installation at no additional cost or time to the Government.
- B. Vibration Isolation:
1. No metal-to-metal contact will be permitted between fixed and floating parts.
  2. Connections to Equipment: Allow for deflections equal to or greater than equipment deflections. Electrical, drain, piping connections, and other items made to rotating or reciprocating equipment (pumps, compressors, etc.) which rests on vibration isolators, shall be isolated from building structure for first three hangers or supports with a deflection equal to that used on the corresponding equipment.
  3. Common Foundation: Mount each electric motor on same foundation as driven machine. Hold driving motor and driven machine in positive rigid alignment with provision for adjusting motor alignment and

- belt tension. Bases shall be level throughout length and width.  
Provide shims to facilitate pipe connections, leveling, and bolting.
4. Provide heat shields where elastomers are subject to temperatures over 38 degrees C (100 degrees F).
  5. Extend bases for pipe elbow supports at discharge and suction connections at pumps. Pipe elbow supports shall not short circuit pump vibration to structure.
  6. Non-rotating equipment such as heat exchangers and convertors shall be mounted on isolation units having the same static deflection as the isolation hangers or support of the pipe connected to the equipment.
- C. Inspection and Adjustments: Check for vibration and noise transmission through connections, piping, ductwork, foundations, and walls. Adjust, repair, or replace isolators as required to reduce vibration and noise transmissions to specified levels.

### **3.2 ADJUSTING**

- A. Adjust vibration isolators after piping systems are filled and equipment is at operating weight.
- B. Adjust limit stops on restrained spring isolators to mount equipment at normal operating height. After equipment installation is complete, adjust limit stops so they are out of contact during normal operation.
- C. Attach thrust limits at centerline of thrust and adjust to a maximum of 6 mm (1/4 inch) movement during start and stop.
- D. Adjust active height of spring isolators.
- E. Adjust snubbers according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- F. Adjust seismic restraints to permit free movement of equipment within normal mode of operation.
- G. Torque anchor bolts according to equipment manufacturer's recommendations to resist seismic forces.

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