PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 DESCRIPTION

A. Field refrigerant piping for direct expansion HVAC systems. Field refrigerant piping and associated drain and condenser water piping for walk-in coolers and freezers, including required pipe insulation. Field refrigerant piping and associated drain and condenser water piping for laboratory refrigerators, including required pipe insulation. Field refrigerant piping and associated drain and condenser water piping for mortuary refrigerators, including required pipe insulation.

B. Refrigerant piping shall be sized, selected, and designed either by the equipment manufacturer or in strict accordance with the manufacturer’s published instructions. The schematic piping diagram shall show all accessories such as, stop valves, level indicators, liquid receivers, oil separator, gauges, thermostatic expansion valves, solenoid valves, moisture separators and driers to make a complete installation.

C. A complete listing of common acronyms and abbreviations are included in Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.

D. Definitions:

1. Refrigerating system: Combination of interconnected refrigerant-containing parts constituting one closed refrigeration circuit in which a refrigerant is circulated for the purpose of extracting heat.

   a. Low side means the parts of a refrigerating system subjected to evaporator pressure.

   b. High side means the parts of a refrigerating system subjected to condenser pressure.

2. Brazed joint: A gas-tight joint obtained by the joining of metal parts with alloys which melt at temperatures higher than 449 degrees
C (840 degrees F) but less than the melting temperatures of the joined parts.

1.2 RELATED WORK

A. Section 01 33 23, SHOP DRAWINGS, PRODUCT DATA, and SAMPLES.
B. Section 01 81 13, SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.
C. Section 11 41 21, WALK IN COOLERS and FREEZERS.
D. Section 11 53 23, LABORATORY REFRIGERATORS.
E. Section 11 78 13, MORTUARY REFRIGERATORS.
F. //Section 13 05 41, SEISMIC RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS.//
G. //Section 13 21 29, CONSTENT TEMPERATURE ROOMS.//
H. Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.
I. Section 23 07 11, HVAC, and BOILER PLANT INSULATION.
J. Section 23 21 13, HYDRONIC PIPING.
K. //Section 23 64 00, PACKAGED WATER CHILLERS.//
L. Section 23 81 00, DECENTRALIZED UNITARY HVAC EQUIPMENT
M. Section 23 81 23, COMPUTER-ROOM AIR-CONDITIONERS
N. Section 23 81 43, AIR-SOURCE UNITARY HEAT PUMPS

1.3 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS

SPEC WRITER NOTES:
1. Make material 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 mechanical systems. Publications that apply to all mechanical systems may not be specifically reference in the body of the specification, but, shall form a part of this specification.
2. Insert the year of approved latest edition 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. Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (ARI/AHRI):
495-//2005//.........Standard for Refrigerant Liquid Receivers
730-//2013//.........Flow Capacity Rating of Suction-Line Filters
and Suction-Line Filter-Driers
C. American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE):
15-//2019/............Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems
                   (ANSI)
17-//2015/............Method of Testing Capacity of Thermostatic
                   Refrigerant Expansion Valves (ANSI)
63.2-//2017/............Method of Testing Liquid Line Filter Drier
                   Filtration Capability (ANSI)

D. American National Standards Institute (ANSI):
A13.1-//2020/............Scheme for Identification of Piping Systems
Z535.1-//2017/............Safety Color Code

E. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME):
B16.22-//2018/............Wrought Copper and Copper Alloy Solder-Joint
                   Pressure Fittings (ANSI)
B16.24-//20016/............Cast Copper Alloy Pipe Flanges and Flanged
                   Fittings, Class 150, 300, 400, 600, 900, 1500
                   and 2500 (ANSI)
B31.5-//2019/ .............Refrigeration Piping and Heat Transfer
                   Components (ANSI)
B40.100-//2013/.........Pressure Gauges and Gauge Attachments
B40.200-//2008/.........Thermometers, Direct Reading and Remote Reading

F. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
                   for Valves, Flanges, and Pipe Fittings
B32-//2020/............Standard Specification for Solder Metal
B88-//2020/............Standard Specification for Seamless Copper
                   Water Tube
B88M-//2020/............Standard Specification for Seamless Copper
                   Water Tube (Metric)
B280-//2020/............Standard Specification for Seamless Copper Tube
                   for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Field
                   Service

A5.8/A5.8M-//2019/.....Standard Specification for Filler Metals for
                   Brazing and Braze Welding
H. Underwriters Laboratories (UL):

207-//2009//...........Standard for Refrigerant-Containing Components and Accessories, Nonelectrical

429-//2013//...........Standard for Electrically Operated Valves

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 23 00, REFRIGERANT PIPING", with applicable paragraph identification.

C. Shop Drawings:

1. Complete information for components noted, including valves and refrigerant piping accessories, clearly presented, shall be included to determine compliance with in the contract documents for components noted below:
   a. Tubing and fittings
   b. Valves
   c. Strainers
   d. Moisture-liquid indicators
   e. Filter-driers
   f. Flexible metal hose
   g. Liquid-suction interchanges
   h. Oil separators (when specified)
   i. Gauges
   j. Pipe and equipment supports
   k. Refrigerant and oil
   l. Pipe/conduit roof penetration cover
   m. Soldering and brazing materials

2. Layout of refrigerant piping and accessories, including flow capacities, valves locations, and oil traps slopes of horizontal runs, floor/wall penetrations, and equipment connection details.

D. Certification: Copies of certificates for welding procedure, performance qualification record and list of welders' names and symbols.

E. Design Manual: Furnish two copies of design manual of refrigerant valves and accessories.
1.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE

A. Refer to specification Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.
B. Comply with ASHRAE Standard 15, Safety Code for Mechanical Refrigeration. The application of this Code is intended to assure the safe design, construction, installation, operation, and inspection of every refrigerating system employing a fluid which normally is vaporized and liquefied in its refrigerating cycle.
C. Comply with ASME B31.5: Refrigerant Piping and Heat Transfer Components.
D. Products shall comply with UL 207 "Refrigerant-Containing Components and Accessories, "Nonelectrical"; or UL 429 "Electrical Operated Valves."

1.6 AS-BUILT DOCUMENTATION

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Coordinate O&M Manual requirements with Section 01 00 00, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS. O&M Manuals shall be submitted for content review as part of close-out documents.

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

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Make material requirements agree with applicable requirements specified in the referred publications. Update and specify only that material which applies to the project.

2.1 PIPING AND FITTINGS

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Copper tubing is limited to sizes up to DN 100 (NPS 4).

A. Refrigerant Piping: For piping up to 100 mm (4 inch) use Copper refrigerant tube, ASTM B280, cleaned, dehydrated and sealed, marked ACR on hard temper straight lengths. Coils shall be tagged ASTM B280 by the manufacturer. For piping over 100 mm (4 inch) use A53 Black SML steel.
B. Water and Drain Piping: Copper water tube, ASTM B88M, Type B or C (ASTM B88, Type M or L). Optional drain piping material: Schedule 80 flame retardant Polypropylene plastic.
C. Fittings, Valves and Accessories:
      a. Brazed Joints, refrigerant tubing: Cadmium free, AWS A5.8/A5.8M, 45 percent silver brazing alloy, Class BAg-5.

2. Steel fittings: ASTM wrought steel fittings.


4. Refrigeration Valves:
   a. Stop Valves: Brass or bronze alloy, packless, or packed type with gas tight cap, frost proof, back seating.
   b. Pressure Relief Valves: Comply with ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code; UL listed. Forged brass with nonferrous, corrosion resistant internal working parts of high strength, cast iron bodies conforming to ASTM A126, Grade B. Set valves in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 15.
   c. Solenoid Valves: Comply with ARI 760 and UL 429, UL-listed, two-position, direct acting or pilot-operated, moisture and vapor-proof type of corrosion resisting materials, designed for intended service, and solder-end connections. Fitted with suitable NEMA 250 enclosure of type required by location and normally open / closed holding coil.
   d. Thermostatic Expansion Valves: Comply with ARI 750. Brass body with stainless-steel or non-corrosive nonferrous internal parts, diaphragm and spring-loaded (direct-operated) type with sensing bulb and distributor having side connection for hot-gas bypass and external equalizer. Size and operating characteristics as recommended by manufacturer of evaporator and factory set for superheat requirements. Solder-end connections. Testing and rating in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 17.
   e. Electronic Thermostatic Expansion Valves: Electronic thermal expansion valves shall be stepper motor high resolution drive assembly type for precision control. Valve shall not exceed 6 watts max consumption. Compatibility tested with most CFC, HCFC, and HFC refrigerants and oils. Valve pistons and ports to be characterized to provide improved flow resolution and performance. Valves to be interfaced with microprocessor-based controllers by devise manufacturer with temperature feedback loop. Electric expansion valves to be sized with nominal steps of stroke for tonnage application as recommended by valve manufacture ranging from 500 steps on small tonnage (under 5 tons.
per circuit) to 6300 on large tonnage circuits (over 100 tons per circuit).

f. Check Valves: Brass or bronze alloy with swing or lift type, with tight closing resilient seals for silent operation; designed for low pressure drop, and with solder-end connections. Direction of flow shall be legibly and permanently indicated on the valve body.

5. Strainers: Designed to permit removing screen without removing strainer from piping system, and provided with screens 80 to 100 mesh in liquid lines DN 25 (NPS 1) and smaller, 60 mesh in liquid lines greater than DN 25 (NPS 1), and 40 mesh in suction lines. Provide strainers in liquid line serving each thermostatic expansion valve, and in suction line serving each refrigerant compressor not equipped with integral strainer.

6. Refrigerant Moisture/Liquid Indicators: Double-ported type having heavy sight glasses sealed into forged bronze body and incorporating means of indicating refrigerant charge and moisture indication. Provide screwed brass seal caps.

7. Refrigerant Filter-Dryers: UL listed, angle or in-line type, as shown in the contract documents. Conform to ARI Standard 730. Heavy gauge steel shell protected with corrosion-resistant paint; perforated baffle plates to prevent desiccant bypass. Size as recommended by manufacturer for service and capacity of system with connection not less than the line size in which installed. Filter driers with replaceable filters shall be furnished with one spare element of each type and size.

8. Flexible Metal Hose: Seamless bronze corrugated hose, covered with bronze wire braid, with standard copper tube ends. Provide in suction and discharge piping of each compressor.

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Discuss the use of heat exchanger with the VA.

9. Water Piping Valves and Accessories: Refer to specification Section 23 21 13, HYDRONIC PIPING, Section 23 64 00, PACKAGED WATER CHILLERS and Section 13 21 29, CONSTANT TEMPERATURE ROOM.

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Oil separators are required only in special situations. These may include systems with long suction lines or other oil return issues. Confirm application of oil separators with equipment manufacturer.
10. //Oil Separators: Provide for condensing units, as shown. All welded steel construction with capacity to eliminate a minimum of 95 percent of the oil from the hot gas flowing through it. Provide manufacturer's published ratings for minimum and maximum refrigeration tonnage corresponding to this oil separating efficiency. Separator shall be equipped with a float valve to prevent return of the hot gas to crankcase, and shall have isolating stop valves so it can be opened and services without pumping out any other part of the system. ASME construction or UL listed.//

SPEC WRITER NOTE: Required only to accommodate pump-down charge.

11. //Receivers: Conform to AHRI 495, steel construction, equipped with taps for liquid inlet and outlet valves, pressure relief valve and liquid level indicator.//

2.2 GAUGES

A. Temperature Gauges: Comply with ASME B40.200. Industrial-duty type and in required temperature range for service in which installed. Gauges shall have Celsius scale in 1-degree (Fahrenheit scale in 2-degree) graduations and with black number on a white face. The pointer shall be adjustable. Rigid stem type temperature gauges shall be provided in thermal wells located within 1525 mm (5 feet) of the finished floor. Universal adjustable angle type or remote element type temperature gauges shall be provided in thermal wells located 1525 to 2135 mm (5 to 7 feet) above the finished floor. Remote element type temperature gauges shall be provided in thermal wells located 2135 mm (7 feet) above the finished floor.

B. Vacuum and Pressure Gauges: Comply with ASME B40.100 and provide with throttling type needle valve or a pulsation dampener and shut-off valve. Gauge shall be a minimum of 90 mm (3-1/2 inches) in diameter with a range from 0 kPa (0 psig) to approximately 1.5 times the maximum system working pressure. Each gauge range shall be selected so that at normal operating pressure, the needle is within the middle-third of the range.

1. Suction: 101 kPa (30 inches Hg) vacuum to 1723 kPa (gauge) (250 psig).

2. Discharge: 0 to 3445 kPa (gauge) (0 to 500 psig).
2.3 THERMOMETERS AND WELLS
   A. Refer to specification Section 23 21 13, HYDRONIC PIPING.

2.4 PIPE SUPPORTS
   A. Refer to specification Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.

2.5 ELECTRICAL HEAT TRACING SYSTEM
   A. Refer to specification Section 23 21 13, HYDRONIC PIPING. Provide for freezer unit cooler drain piping.

2.6 REFRIGERANTS AND OIL
   A. Provide EPA approved refrigerant and oil for proper system operation.

2.7 PIPE/CONDUIT ROOF PENETRATION COVER
   A. Prefabricated Roof Curb: Galvanized steel or extruded aluminum 300 mm (12 inches) overall height, continuous welded corner seams, treated wood nailer, 38 mm (1-1/2 inch) thick, 48 kg/cubic meter (3 pounds/cubic foot) density rigid mineral fiberboard insulation with metal liner, built-in cant strip (except for gypsum or tectum decks).
   - For surface insulated roof deck, provide raised cant strip (recessed mounting flange) to start at the upper surface of the insulation. Curbs shall be constructed for pitched roof or ridge mounting as required to keep top of curb level.
   B. Penetration Cover: Galvanized sheet metal with flanged removable top.
      - Provide 38 mm (1-1/2 inch) thick mineral fiber board insulation.
   C. Flashing Sleeves: Provide sheet metal sleeves for conduit and pipe penetrations of the penetration cover. Seal watertight penetrations.

2.8 PIPE INSULATION FOR DX HVAC SYSTEMS
   A. Refer to specification Section 23 07 11, HVAC, PLUMBING, and BOILER PLANT INSULATION.

2.9 PIPE INSULATION FOR WALK-IN COOLERS AND FREEZERS AND LABORATORY REFRIGERATORS AND MORTUARY REFRIGERATORS
   A. Flexible elastomeric: Refer to specification Section 23 07 11, HVAC, PLUMBING, and BOILER PLANT INSULATION.
   B. Insulate refrigerant suction piping from unit cooler to condensing unit. Use 20 mm (3/4-inch) thick insulation on piping inside the refrigerator or freezer and 40 mm (1-1/2 inch) thick insulation (double layer required) on piping outside the refrigerated space.
   C. Insulate unit cooler drain piping in freezer units, over electric heat tracing system, to prevent drain from freezing during defrost.//
PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.1 INSTALLATION

A. Install refrigerant piping and refrigerant containing parts in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 15 and ASME B31.5

1. Install piping as short as possible, with a minimum number of joints, elbow and fittings.

2. Install piping with adequate clearance between pipe and adjacent walls and hangers to allow for service and inspection. Space piping, including insulation, to provide 25 mm (1 inch) minimum clearance between adjacent piping or other surface. Use pipe sleeves through walls, floors, and ceilings, sized to permit installation of pipes with full thickness insulation.

3. Locate and orient valves to permit proper operation and access for maintenance of packing, seat and disc. Generally locate valve stems in overhead piping in horizontal position. Provide a union adjacent to one end of all threaded end valves. Control valves usually require reducers to connect to pipe sizes shown in the contract documents.

4. Use copper tubing in protective conduit when installed below ground.

5. Install hangers and supports per ASME B31.5 and the refrigerant piping manufacturer's recommendations.

B. Joint Construction:

1. Brazed Joints: Comply with AWS "Brazing Handbook" and with filler materials complying with AWS A5.8/A5.8M.
   a. Use Type BcuP, copper-phosphorus alloy for joining copper socket fittings with copper tubing.
   b. Use Type BAg, cadmium-free silver alloy for joining copper with bronze or steel.
   c. Swab fittings and valves with manufacturer's recommended cleaning fluid to remove oil and other compounds prior to installation.
   d. Pass nitrogen gas through the pipe or tubing to prevent oxidation as each joint is brazed. Cap the system with a reusable plug after each brazing operation to retain the nitrogen and prevent entrance of air and moisture.

C. Protect refrigerant system during construction against entrance of foreign matter, dirt and moisture; have open ends of piping and connections to compressors, condensers, evaporators and other equipment tightly capped until assembly.
D. Pipe relief valve discharge to outdoors for systems containing greater than 45 kg (100 lbs) of refrigerant.

E. Firestopping: Fill openings around uninsulated piping penetrating floors or fire walls, with firestop material. For firestopping insulated piping refer to Section 23 07 11, HVAC, and BOILER PLANT INSULATION.

F. Seismic Bracing: Refer to specification Section 13 05 41, SEISMIC RESTRAINTS REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS, for bracing of piping in seismic areas.

G. If in the substantiated evaluation of the COR, the installation fails to meet the requirements of the construction documents with respect to function and maintainability, an installation is unsatisfactory to the COR, the Contractor shall correct the installation at no additional cost or time to the Government.

3.2 PIPE AND TUBING INSULATION
A. Refer to specification Section 23 05 11, COMMON WORK RESULTS FOR HVAC.
B. Apply two coats of weather-resistant finish as recommended by the manufacturer to insulation exposed to outdoor weather.

3.3 SIGNS AND IDENTIFICATION
A. Each refrigerating system erected on the premises shall be provided with an easily legible permanent sign securely attached and easily accessible, indicating thereon the name and address of the installer, the kind and total number of pounds of refrigerant required in the system for normal operations, and the field test pressure applied.
B. Systems containing greater than 50 kg (110 lb) of refrigerant shall be provided with durable signs, in accordance with ANSI A13.1 and ANSI Z535.1, having letters not less than 13 mm (1/2 inch) in height designating:
   1. Valves and switches for controlling refrigerant flow, the ventilation and the refrigerant compressor(s).
   2. Signs on all exposed high pressure and low pressure piping installed outside the machinery room, with name of the refrigerant and the letters "HP" or "LP."

3.4 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL
A. Prior to initial operation examine and inspect piping system for conformance to plans and specifications and ASME B31.5. Correct equipment, material, or work rejected because of defects or
nonconformance with plans and specifications, and ANSI codes for pressure piping.

B. After completion of piping installation and prior to initial operation, conduct test on piping system according to ASME B31.5. Furnish materials and equipment required for tests. Perform tests in the presence of COR. If the test fails, correct defects and perform the test again until it is satisfactorily done and all joints are proved tight.

1. Every refrigerant-containing parts of the system that is erected on the premises, except compressors, condensers, evaporators, safety devices, pressure gauges, control mechanisms and systems that are factory tested, shall be tested and proved tight after complete installation, and before operation.

2. The high and low side of each system shall be tested and proved tight at not less than the lower of the design pressure or the setting of the pressure-relief device protecting the high or low side of the system, respectively, except systems erected on the premises using non-toxic and non-flammable Group A1 refrigerants with copper tubing not exceeding DN 18 (NPS 5/8). This may be tested by means of the refrigerant charged into the system at the saturated vapor pressure of the refrigerant at 20 degrees C (68 degrees F) minimum.

C. Test Medium: A suitable dry gas such as nitrogen or shall be used for pressure testing. The means used to build up test pressure shall have either a pressure-limiting device or pressure-reducing device with a pressure-relief device and a gauge on the outlet side. The pressure relief device shall be set above the test pressure but low enough to prevent permanent deformation of the system components.

D. Refrigerator/Freezer Start-up and Performance Tests: Specification //Section 11 41 21, WALK-IN COOLERS and FREEZERS//Section 11 53 23, LABORATORY REFRIGERATORS//Section 11 78 13, MORTUARY REFRIGERATORS//.

3.5 SYSTEM TEST AND CHARGING

A. System Test and Charging: As recommended by the equipment manufacturer or as follows:

1. Connect a drum of refrigerant to charging connection and introduce enough refrigerant into system to raise the pressure to 70 kPa (10 psig) gauge. Close valves and disconnect refrigerant drum. Test system for leaks with halide test torch or other approved method.
suitable for the test gas used. Repair all leaking joints and retest.

2. Connect a drum of dry nitrogen to charging valve and bring test pressure to design pressure for low side and for high side. Test entire system again for leaks.

3. Evacuate the entire refrigerant system by the triplicate evacuation method with a vacuum pump equipped with an electronic gauge reading in mPa (microns). Pull the system down to 665 mPa (500 microns) 665 mPa (2245.6 inches of mercury at 60 degrees F) and hold for 8 hours then break the vacuum with dry nitrogen (or refrigerant). Repeat the evacuation two more times breaking the third vacuum with the refrigeration to be charged and charge with the proper volume of refrigerant.

3.6 STARTUP AND TESTING
A. The CxA will observe startup and contractor testing of selected equipment. Coordinate the startup and contractor testing schedules with the COR and CxA. Provide a minimum of 7 days prior notice.
B. Provide services of manufacturer’s technical representative for four hours to instruct VA personnel in operation and maintenance of computer room air conditioning equipment.

3.7 COMMISSIONING
A. Provide commissioning documentation in accordance with the requirements of Section 23 08 00, COMMISSIONING OF HVAC SYSTEMS for all inspection, start up, and contractor testing required above and required by the System Readiness Checklist provided by the CxA.
B. Components provided under this section of the specification will be tested as part of a larger system. Refer to Section 23 08 00, COMMISSIONING OF HVAC SYSTEMS and related sections for contractor responsibilities for system commissioning.

3.8 DEMONSTRATION AND TRAINING
A. Provide services of manufacturer’s technical representative for 4 hours to instruct VA personnel in operation and maintenance of units.
B. Submit training plans and instructor qualifications in accordance with the requirements of Section 23 08 00, COMMISSIONING OF HVAC SYSTEMS.

- - - E N D - - -