

METROPOLITAN NY CHAPTER
Refrigeration Service Engineers Society

Continuing Education for the HVAC/R Industry

“Better Service Through Knowledge”

November 2023



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Metro NY RSES



EDUCATIONAL MEETING

November 8th, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Dinner (optional) at 6:00pm

At *TAVERNA KOS* 41-19 23rd Ave., Astoria

- AWEF TEV sizing considerations
- How new A2L refrigerants affect Sporlan TEV's and components
- What you need to know from Sporlan on refrigerant retrofits?

This month's guest speaker will be:
Kenny Balci

Sales Engineer - New York Office

Sporlan Division / Instrumentation Group—Parker Hannifin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately, our October seminar had to be cancelled. We sent out over 4000 announcements and had two members respond. Rich Bruno spent a lot of time organizing and setting up the seminar. The only thing lacking was member participation. Breakfast, lunch and an educational presentation - *What else do you want?* If the educational topic did not interest you, send me - or any board member - a suggestion of what topic or topics you might be interested in.

Seminars provide the funds to subsidize members meals at monthly meetings as well as cover other chapter expenses.

Do you know how the new A2L refrigerants affect SPORLAN TEV's and other components? Kenny Balci from Sporlan will update us on that and other pertinent topics.

Hope to see you there.

Stay safe and healthy.

Drew Garda, President

Metropolitan NY Chapter, RSES

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Common Mistakes to Avoid On a Service Call

Avoiding mistakes while servicing refrigeration equipment is vital for any service company to be profitable. Not only do mistakes erode the profit margin on service calls, they can also cause a contractor to actually lose money on the call and lose a good customer. It is difficult to eliminate all mistakes. But it is possible to minimize the number of mistakes made and eliminate making some of the relatively common ones, such as these:

Not checking for a refrigerant leak at a service port after removing your service gauges. Many times the valve stems or the valve itself will leak. This may go unnoticed and cause refrigerant to leak out of the system. It is a good practice to always replace the caps on any service port which were removed during the service call. This will serve two purposes: 1) if the valve is leaking the cap might be enough protection to contain the leak; and 2) if left uncapped the port could rust over on outdoor systems and cause the next technician on the job to be unable to install his service gauges.

Not checking the condition of the evaporator coil. By examining the condition of the evaporator, many times a service technician can tell if the coil is fully active, iced over, or starved for refrigerant. This will aid him in finding the correct problem. For example, if a technician is troubleshooting a system and finds a low suction pressure reading, he may assume that the system is low on charge. However, if he were to check the condition of the evaporator he would see that the coil was iced over, causing the low suction pressure. If the technician assumes the system is low on charge and adds refrigerant to the system, not only will he not have solved the problem, but he most likely will have caused another problem.

Relying only on reading the suction pressure of a system and ignoring the discharge pressure. This shortcut can surely lead to misdiagnosing a system's problem. An abnormal suction pressure can be the result of several different problems. By looking only at the suction pressure a technician cannot truly determine the exact cause of the problem—he must look at both the suction *and* discharge pressures to properly diagnose system.

Not marking the system with the new refrigerant on a refrigerant conversion. After converting a system to a new refrigerant, it is important to mark the system with the new type. This will let the next technician on the job know that the refrigerant has

been changed over and what the new type is. If the new refrigerant is not marked on the equipment, the next technician may not know that the refrigerant has been converted, and this could lead to problems if he needs to add refrigerant to the system. If he unknowingly adds the wrong refrigerant, the entire charge will need to be removed and the system evacuated and recharged with the correct refrigerant.

Being too aggressive when de-icing an evaporator coil. A common service call for a technician is for an iced-up evaporator. As part of the repair process the coil will need to be de-iced. Being too aggressive when defrosting the coil could easily cause a leak in the coil. Never use an ice pick or a metal object to de-ice a coil. The best way to de-ice a coil is with water; however this is messy and not always practical. A heat gun also works well but care should be taken not to overheat any items close to the evaporator.

Not checking the voltage of a replacement component before installing it. When changing out a component a technician must verify the replacement component is the same voltage as the one being replaced. Many times technicians are given components with the wrong voltage at a supply house, or they pick up the wrong component at their shop. This mistake can be costly, especially when installing a replacement compressor. Installing the wrong compressor is not easily rectified. The service technician will most likely need to remove the wrong replacement and install the correct one, which will require extra time and material, for which he will not get paid.

Damaging the threads of a bolt, nut, or flare nut. Working with older equipment involves working with older nuts, bolts, and flare nuts. When taking these items off and putting them back on, care should be taken not to force them—as this could easily damage the threads. If the threads do not easily fit on by hand, find out why before taking a wrench to them. Once the threads are damaged the piece will need to be replaced. This is especially important when working with the bolts on a compressor. If these bolts become damaged, the technician may be forced to change out the whole compressor to repair the problem.

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