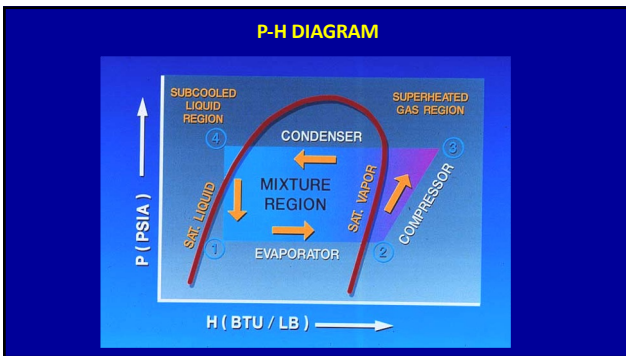


AIR COOLERS
By
Ramesh Paranjpey
Fellow Life member ASHRAE

1

- BASIC COMPONENTS OF A REFRIGERATION SYSTEM**
- EVAPORATOR
 - CONDENSER
 - COMPRESSOR
 - LIQUID METERING DEVICE

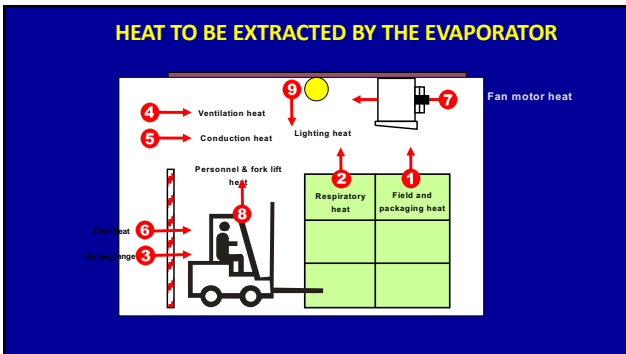
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THE EVAPORATOR IS A DEVICE FOR ABSORBING HEAT INTO THE REFRIGERATOR SYSTEM.

4



5



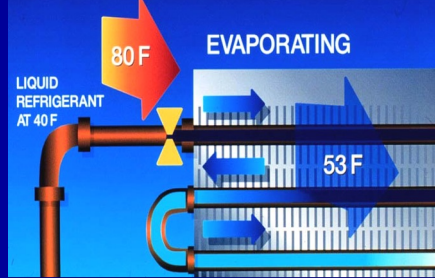
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AIR COOLERS IN COLD STORAGE



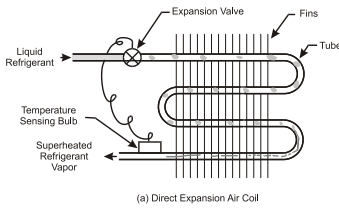
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LATENT HEAT MAKES REFRIGERATION WORK



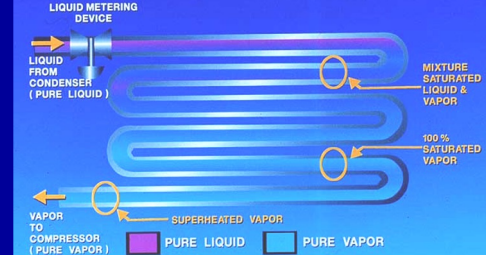
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Direct Expansion Air Coil



9

DIRECT EXPANSION EVAPORATOR (SINGLE CIRCUIT)



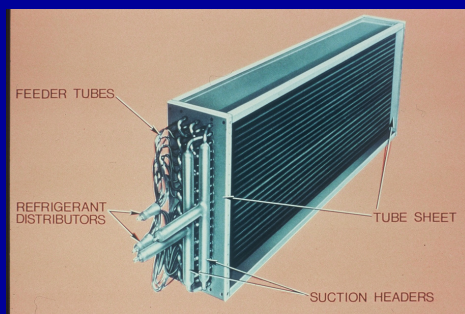
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OLD - BUNKER SYSTEM

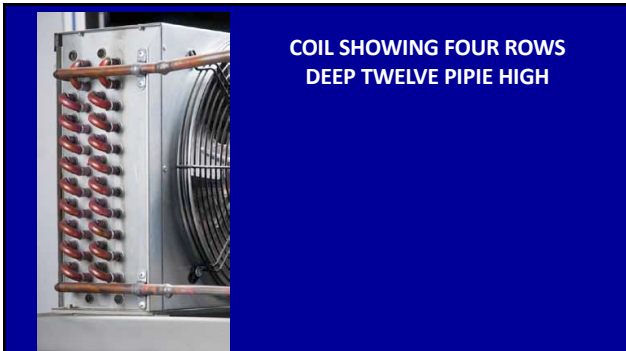


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DX COIL



12



13

VERTICALLY FEED COILS

In vertically fed coils refrigerant flows from the bottom to the top or from top to the bottom. Cross over piping is utilized to balance refrigerant pressure drop and circuit load.. Vertically circuited coils in gravity flooded applications or liquid re-circulated applications do not use orifices to meter refrigerant flow to each circuit, so the circuit is unrestricted

14

Flooded Air Coil

NOTE:-COIL IS FULL OF LIQUID FROM ENTRY TO EXIT

15

SUCTION –LIQUID LINE SIZING

- When we select cooler based on capacity –especially for low temperature applications, The initial cool down load is very high when we start cooling form ambient temperature. There is very vigorous boiling and if line sizes are not designed for this load, the liquid instead entering the air cooler, directly goes to accumulator and then to compressor in gravity flooded system.
- Always design line sizes of inlet/outlet of air cooler for initial load situation
- In case of problem always think why suction gas is not getting released from air cooler rather than worrying about why liquid is not entering coolers-Liquid will enter automatically by gravity once the space is created by gas going out-Valuable advice by Bruce Griffiths

16

Gravity Flooded System

Static height to overcome coil pressure drop & to ensure refrigerant flow movement

17

Pumped System

Circulation rate varies from 3 to 8 depending on application & processing equipment

18

GRAVITY FLOW V/S PUMPED FLOW

GRAVITY FEED

FORCED FEED

IN PUMP CIRCULATION SYSTEM GAS BUBBLES ARE ENTRAPPED IN EXCESS LIQUID FLOW, WALLS ARE ALWAYS IN CONTACT WITH LIQUID HENCE BETTER HEAT TRANSFER

19

KEY POINTS FOR SELECTING RIGHT SIZE EVAPORATOR

- Material of Construction
- Tube diameter/fin thickness/Fin Pitch
- Selection of temperature difference
- Fin Pitch-Square or Triangular
- Coil capacity selection-Based on TD1 or LMTD or MTD
- Air Flow Direction-Blow Through or Draw Through
- Air cooler surface area which includes fin area or only coil internal volume/length of coil without headers?
- Coil face velocity at the air outlet
- External static pressure available
- No of rows deep more or coil face area more ?-inlet/out connection sizes
- Defrost system-Hot gas/water/electrical heaters/reverse cycle or on/off

20

KEY POINTS FOR SELECTING RIGHT SIZE EVAPORATOR

- **Material of Construction**
 1. Stainless steel tubes, casing as well as drain pan & and Al fins
 2. Entire construction in Aluminium
 3. C.S. Tubes with hot deep galvanizing and aluminium fins
 4. Any other material to suit surrounding conditions and refrigerant

21

CHOICE OF MATERIAL

1. Hot Dip Galvanized Steel (Steel/Zn)- (SA179)
2. 304 S.S. Tubes with Aluminium Fins (SST/Al)- (SA249)
3. 3003 Gr. Aluminum Tubes with Aluminum Fins (Al/Al)- (SA210)

22

MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Metal	Density Lbs/cft.	Thermal conductivity Btu/sq.ft°F/ft.	Specific heat Btu/lb. °F	Tensile strength kj	Allowable Temperature °F
C.S.(SA179)	490	26	0.107	47	-20 to +500
304L S.S. (SA249)	501	9.4	0.120	70	-320 to +320
3003 Al(SA210)	16.5	117	0.215	14	-452 TO +300

Advantages Aluminium Coolers

1. Light weight-30% lighter
2. Heat transfer-Better-30% more compact
3. Cost-30% Cheaper

Disadvantages:

1. Cannot be repaired at site
2. Delicate-not yet popular

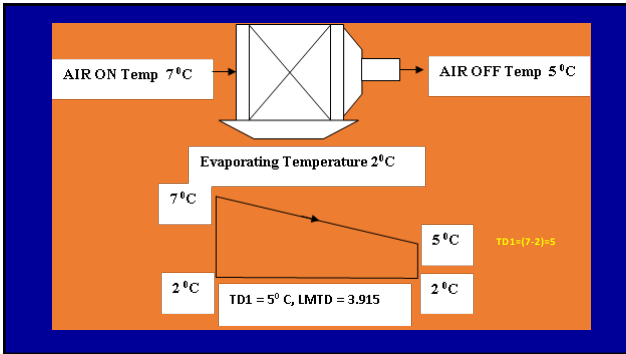
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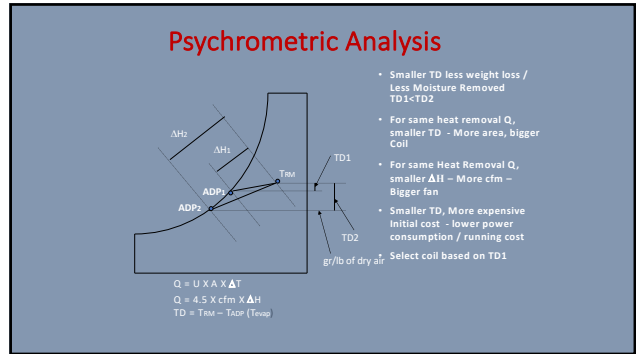
HEAT TRANSFER EQUATION

- $Q = U * A * LMTD$ or $A = Q / (U * LMTD)$
- TD1 is method is based on the difference between the air temperature entering the evaporator coil (room Temperature)and the corresponding temperature of the saturated suction pressure of the refrigerant measured at the outlet of the evaporator.
- -Selection by DT1 gives adequate and bigger air cooler compared to LMTD and hence should be used.
- High humidity requirements will require coils with large surface areas and must be run at low TD's.
- Low humidity requirements will require coils with smaller surface areas and greater TD's.

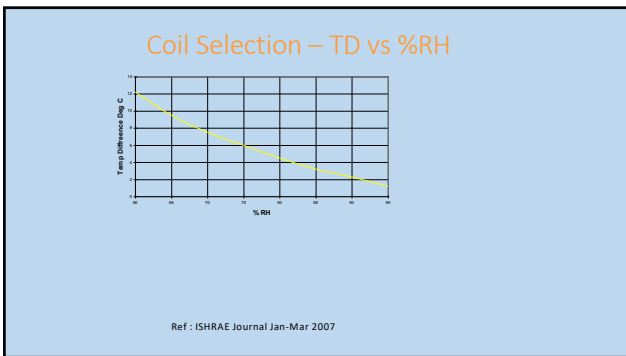
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TD1 or LMTD or TM

- TD1 = Air On Temperature – Saturated Coil outlet Temperature
- LMTD = $\text{Log}_e \frac{TD1(\text{Coil entering temperature} - \text{Evaporating temperature})}{TD2(\text{coil leaving temperature} - \text{evaporating temperature})}$
- TM = Average (“Room.”) Air Temperature – Coil Evaporator Temperature
- Higher LMTD means lower area
- LMTD or TM coils would be smaller and cheaper but not adequate.
- **ALWAYS SELECT COOLER ON THE BASIS OF TD1**

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TD1 = AIR ON TEMP. (ROOM TEMP.) MINUS - SATURATED EVAPORATING TEMP. AT COIL OUTLET

Application		TD1 = T _{air,in} - T _{refrig.}
Positive temperature above freezing	High Humidity	2.2 to 4.4 deg. C
Positive Temperature	Low Humidity	5 deg. C (Preferred)
Negative temperature storage	-	5.5 deg. C to 6 deg. C

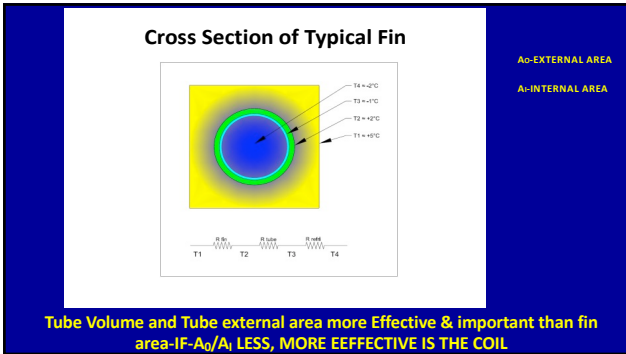
Ref: Stocker-Industrial Refrigeration-Page 207

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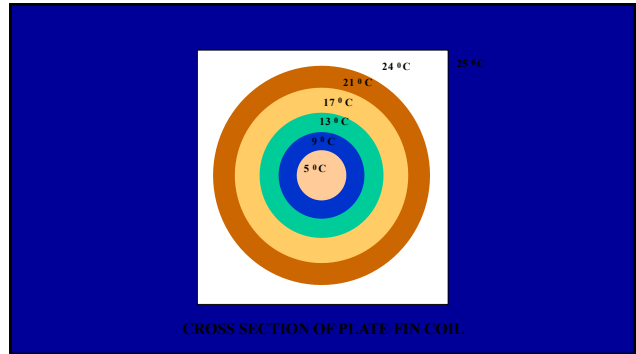
CONCLUSION-TD1 OR LMTD OR TM

- $Q = U \times A \times \text{LMTD}$ or $A = Q / (U \times \text{LMTD})$
- TD1 is method is based on the difference between the air temperature entering the evaporator coil (room Temperature) and the corresponding temperature of the saturated suction pressure of the refrigerant measured at the outlet of the evaporator.
- -Selection by TD1 gives adequate and bigger air cooler compared to TM and hence should always be used.
- High humidity requirements will require coils with large surface areas and must be run at low TD's.
- Low humidity requirements will require coils with smaller surface areas and greater TD's.

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AREA SELECTION

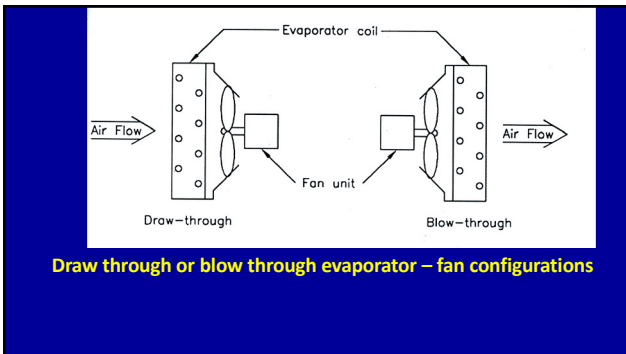
- Air cooler Area-Which area to be considered?
- surface area which includes fin area or coil internal volume/length of coil without headers?
- Always Check coil internal volume –Coil which has maximum internal volume is the more efficient selection & do not be misled by coil surface area

33

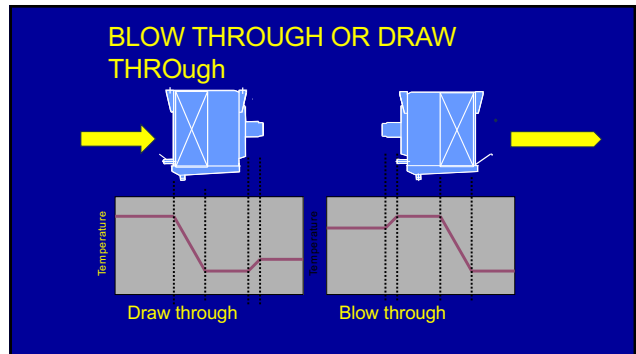
AIR FLOW DIRECTION-

- DRAW THROUGH OR BLOW THROUGH

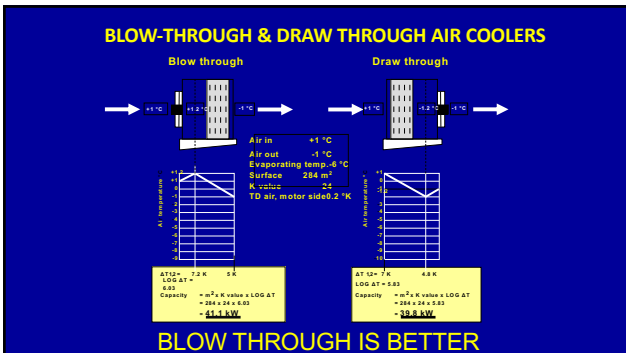
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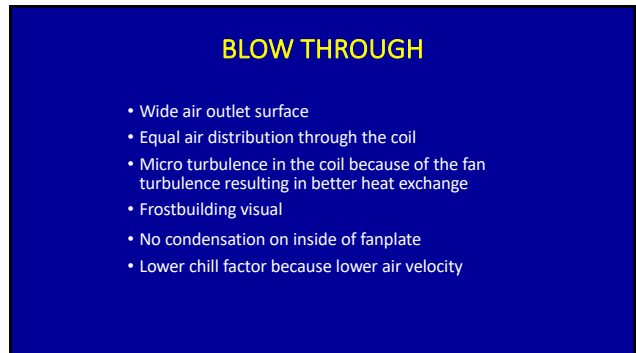
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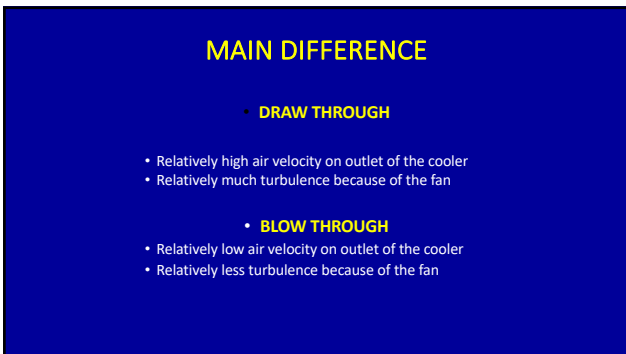
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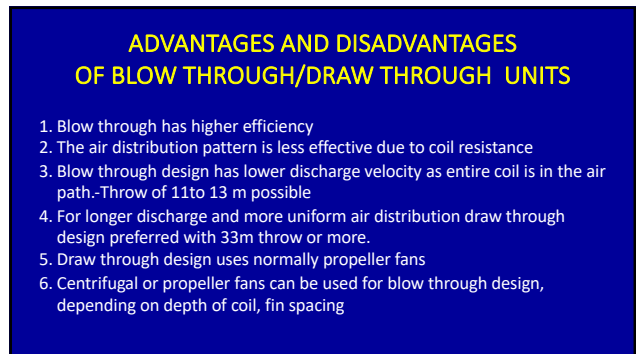
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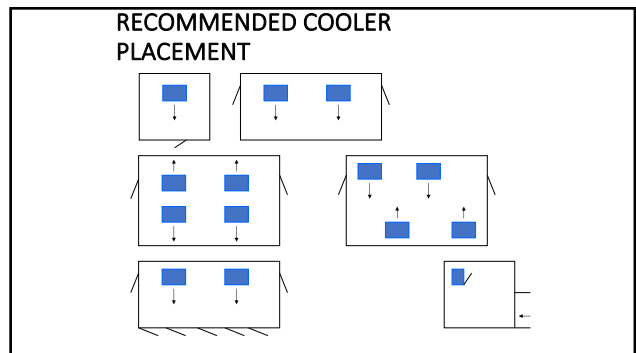
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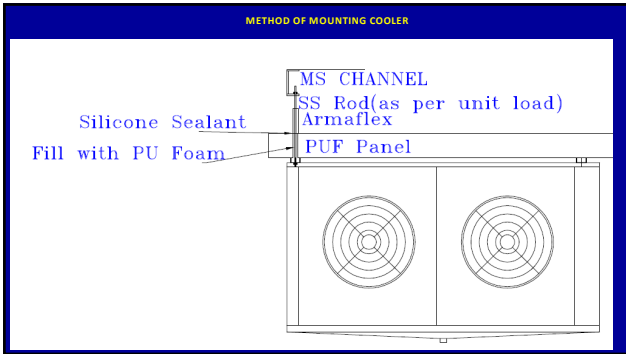
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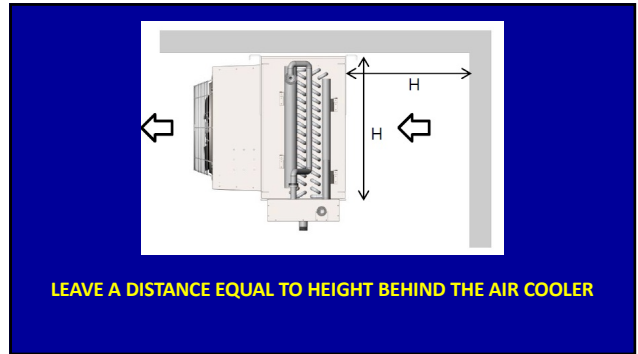
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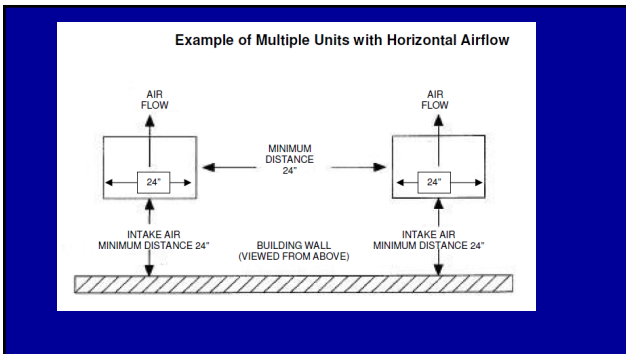
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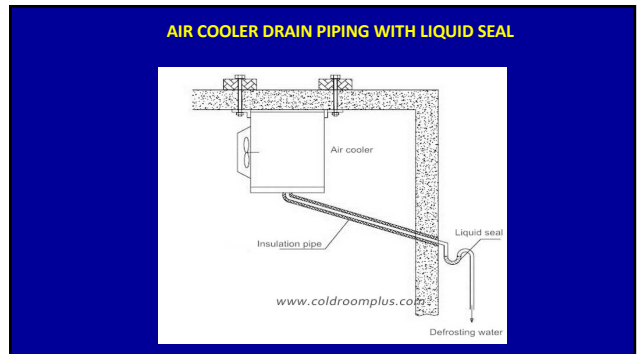
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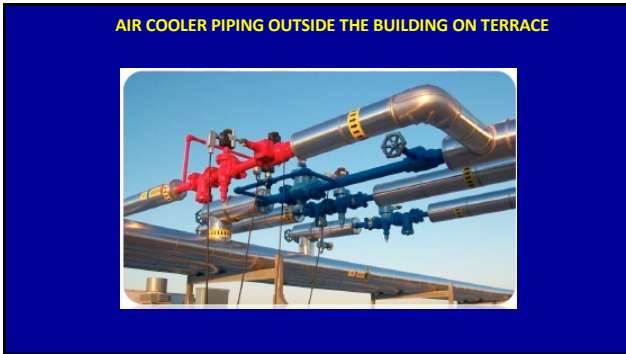
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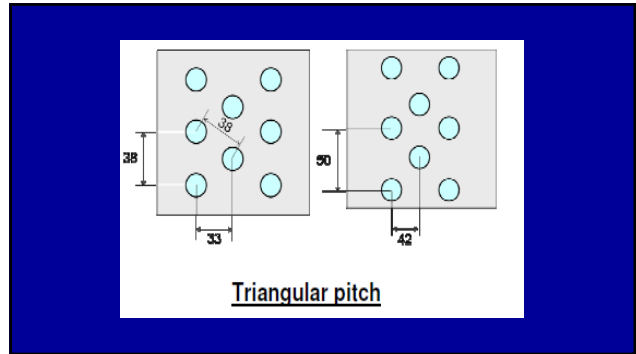
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50

50
Square pitch

Advantages-

1. Lower defrost Build up
2. Easy and quicker defrost
3. Lower Air resistance
4. Lower motor power

Disadvantages-

1. Lower air side heat Transfer coefficient
2. Higher fin Temperature
3. Larger Air cooler compared to Triangular fin
4. More expensive

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3/8" x .016 TUBE

1" X 1" Sq. Patern	1" X 3/4" Trangular Patern
-----------------------	-------------------------------

1. Square Pattern: 21 Tubes
2. Triangular Pattern-21 Tubes
3. Square Pattern-Fin area to Tube area ratio more
4. External surface Area more than Triangular Pitch, although tube area and volume same.
5. Surface area is not as effective as tube area
6. Triangular Pitch more compact- 2.25" v/s 3"

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Cross Section of Typical Fin

A₀-EXTERNAL AREA
A₁-INTERNAL AREA

Tube Volume and Tube external area more Effective & important than fin area-A₀/A₁ LESS MORE EEEFFECTIVE IS THE COIL

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MORE COMPACT TUBE ARRANGEMENT OR LARGER TUBE DIAMETER-MORE EFFECTIVE IS COIL

- MORE COMPACT TUBE ARRANGEMENT
- LARGER TUBE DIAMETER
- LOWER SECONDARY TO PRIMARY AREA
- HIGHER PRESSURE DROP
- MORE FAN POWER

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HYDRAULIC EXPANSION

- Controlled expansion of the tubes.
- Long lasting maximum contact between tube and fin, therefore guarantee of (life-time) capacity.
- Competitors solutions: decrease of capacity in time

55

1. Stainless Steel needs to be elongated beyond its yield point during expansion.
2. If that is done, it does not come to its original shape.
3. As per Kelvin Goehart, in mechanical expansion this is not achieved.
4. The tubes are subject to thermal stress of low temp during cooling and high temp while defrosting. Hence over a period of time the bonding between tubes and fins gets loosened & eventually losing capacity – in case of mechanical expansion

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HYDRAULIC EXPANSION- Better contact

The pressure expansion process provides superior consistency in tube/fin bond

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Mechanical expansion

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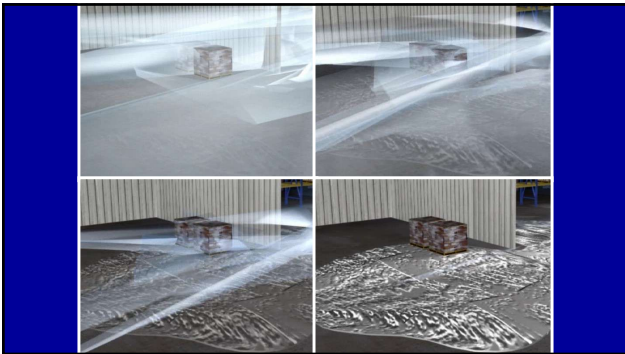
Figure 3: a) Tube-Fin Contact for pressure expanded coil, and b) mechanically (bullet) expanded coil

Based on a series of physical measurements, visual inspections, and coil tests, the new pressure expansion method shows significant improvements and potential over more traditional mechanical expansion processes. Measurements of tube diameter show that pressure expanded coils have a more consistent expanded diameter than their mechanically expanded counterparts.

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DEFROSTING COILS

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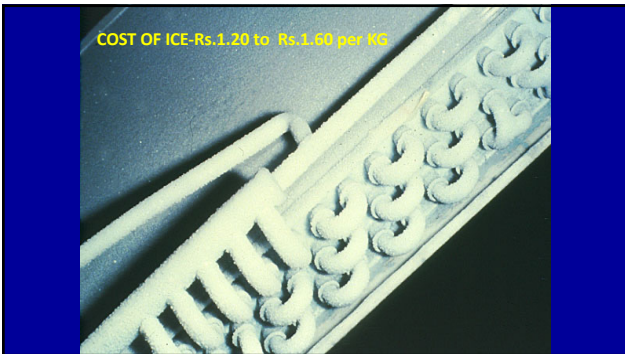
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LATENT HEAT V/S SENSIBLE HEAT

- To Cool one kg of dry air requires 1.006 kJ/kg_{da}·K energy(0.24 Btu/lb)
- To condense one kg of Vapor requires 2500.77 kJ/kg_{da}·k energy(1076Btu/lb)

Latent heat requires 4500 times more energy per lb.

62



63

Effect of Frost

Frost layer blocks heat transfer from the air to the fins. Cooling capacity of the air cooler is getting less.

Frost layer causes less space between fins so that the pressure drop in air side is rising. Less air flows through the heat exchanger coils.

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EVAPORATOR COIL ICING –OR– EXCESSIVE CONDENSATE REMOVAL- REASONS

- Coils running at too low a temperature
- Defrost system defective
- Storage RH is too high
- Inadequate air flow
- Coil design incorrect -high fin density, small tubing, more than required depth leading to removal of excess moisture than necessary
- Defective insulation-Air leakage through doors-holes

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Defrost Loads-Latent Loads-Btu/lb

1	Latent Heat Condensation	1076 Btu/lb
2	Sensible Heat to reduce Vapour Temp. From 104°F to 32°F	40 Btu/lb
3	Sensible Heat (32°F to -15°F)	23 Btu/lb
4	Latent heat of Frost	144 Btu/lb
5	Heat reqd. to Defrost raise Temperature from -15 to 32	23 Btu/lb
6	Latent heat of Frost	144 Btu/lb
7	Assuming Defrost Efficiency 25%	576 Btu/lb
8	Raise temp. From 32 to 42 (room temp)	10 Btu/lb
9	Sublimation (Frost to Vapour) 16% (of 5+6+7)	120 Btu/lb
10	Evaporation loss 14% (of 5+6+7)	106 Btu/lb
11	Total Energy Required	2262 Btu/lb
12	Actual Energy lost 2262/0.7lb of ice	3232 Btu/lb
13	Power required to Defrost 1 lb	0.7 kW/lb

66

DEFROST LOADS-LATENT LOADS-BTU/0.7LB FROM COIL

		kWh
1	To produce Frost	0.21 kWh
2	To Defrost Frost	0.09 kWh
3	To remove Defrost Heat	0.16 kWh
4	Total power	0.46 kWh
6	Power required to remove 1 lb of Frost	0.46/0.7=0.66 kWh

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HELPMAN® WATER DEFROST SYSTEM

$P_{water} = 0.03 \text{ bar}$

Slide 68

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HELPMAN® WATER DEFROST

- Water is lead to gutters, located lengthwise above the cooler coil. One gutter per two tube rows.
- Water distribution openings in the gutter bottom plate ensure an even water distribution over the cooler tubes

Slide 69

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HELPMAN® WATER DEFROST

- Required water flow is 0.6 m³/h per meter gutter length. This flow will be reached with 0.03 bar water pressure in the distribution line (+/- 30%, this means a 50% pre-pressure tolerance).
- If too much water is supplied, part of the water flows to the wrong places and could splash outside the cooler casing. This may affect the defrosting process and will cause solid ice on undesirable locations.

Slide 70

70

BOTTOM FEED WATER SUPPLY

- Water pressure is reduced by a pressure regulator down to 0.03 bar +/- allowed tolerance.
- After completion of the defrosting process, the water supply line is closed and at the same time the drain line is opened. When the system is fully drained, the drain line will be closed again.
- The water discharge line is equipped with a siphon (air trap) to avoid freezing of the discharge line where it passes through the cold room wall.

Slide 71

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BOTTOM FEED WATER SUPPLY

Water volume adjustment
 $P1 = 0.03 \text{ bar } +/- 50\%$
 $P2 = 0.03 \text{ bar}$
 + static discharge height H
 + line resistance

Water supply valve, Pressure gauge, Water supply, Pressure regulator, Water discharge, Water drain valve, Funnel, Siphon, Water discharging system, height

Slide 72

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TOP FEED WATER SUPPLY

- Water supply is identical to Bottom Feed System.
- During defrost, a part of the added water will lead to the sewer through the combined overflow drain line to avoid freezing of the pipe section inside the cold room.
- After completion of the defrosting process, the water supply line is closed and the system will be drained directly using the combined overflow drain line.
- Both discharge lines are equipped with siphons to avoid freezing inside the cold room wall passages.
- An automatic aerator at the top of the pipe alignment is required to enable draining.

5506-73

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DEMAND DEFROST CYCLE UP FEED COILS (FOR COILS 15 TR & BELOW)

FIG. 3

Demand Defrost Cycle Up Feed Coils

74

DEMAND DEFROST CYCLE DOWN FEED OR CROSSFEED COILS (FOR COILS 15 TR & BELOW)

FIG. 4

Demand Defrost Cycle Down Feed Or Cross Feed Coils

75

SUGGESTED FIN SPACING –RUN TIME-DEFROST FREQUENCY

SHR= S.H./((S.H.+L.H))	Fin Spacing	Design Running Time	Defrost Frequency- Nos. per day
0.65	2	14	9
0.75	3	16	8
0.85	4	16	6
0.95	4	18	2

As sensible Heat increases less defrost Frequency and closer fin spacing

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Danfoss

Separate hot gas defrost line for defrost pans

Having a separate valve station for the defrost pan:

- Reduces the energy consumption since a smaller solenoid valve is necessary to heat the pan during the length of the defrost sequence
- Main hot gas solenoid valve will only be active for 10 minutes reducing the amount of heat added to the refrigerated space.

Danfoss Application Center November 2013 1.1

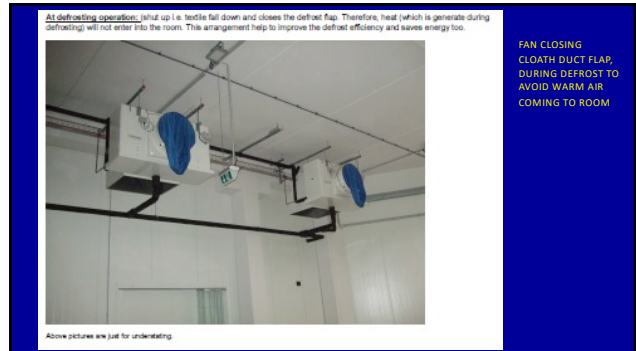
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AIR COOLER WITH A
FLAP WHICH
CLOSES DURING
DEFROSTING

78



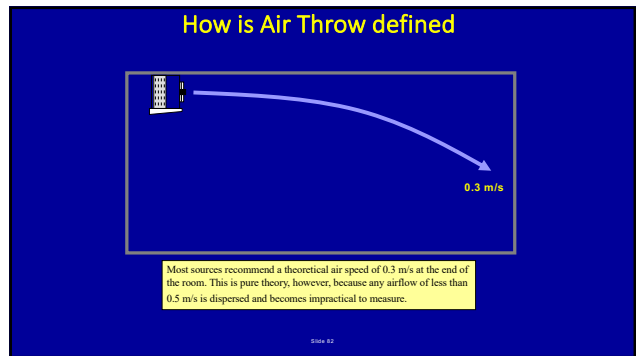
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PROPER AIR CIRCULATION-
AIR THROW & AIR SPREAD
IMPORTANCE

81



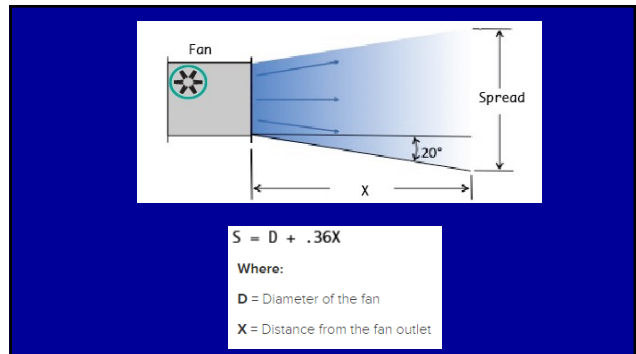
82

Calculating the range

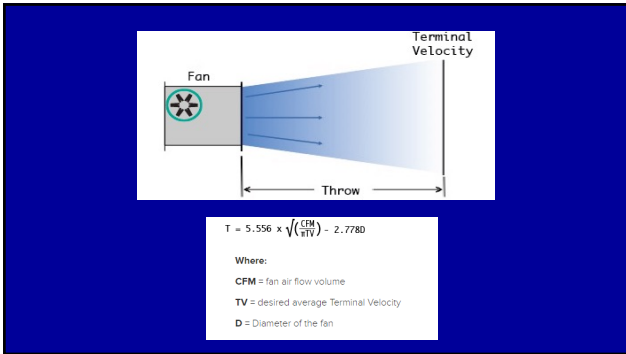
Empirical equation:
$$\text{Air throw} = A \times V_{eo}^2 \times \frac{1.2}{W_s}$$

A = Correction factor, pressure/suction (depending on fan type and cooler design)
 V_{eo} = Air speed at the evaporator outlet (m/s)
 W_s = specific weight of the air

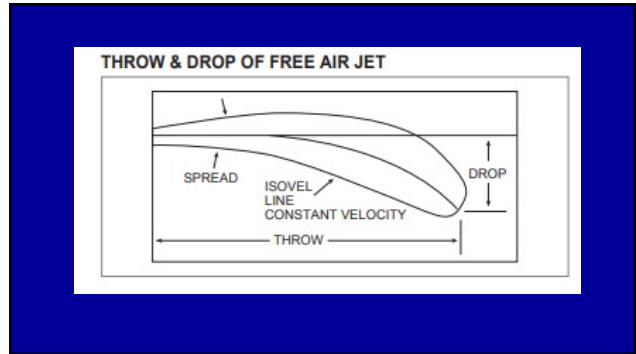
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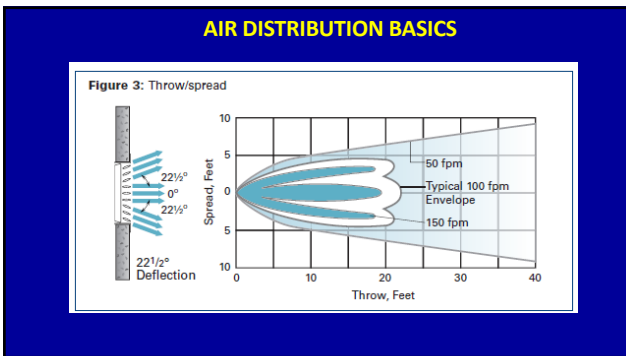
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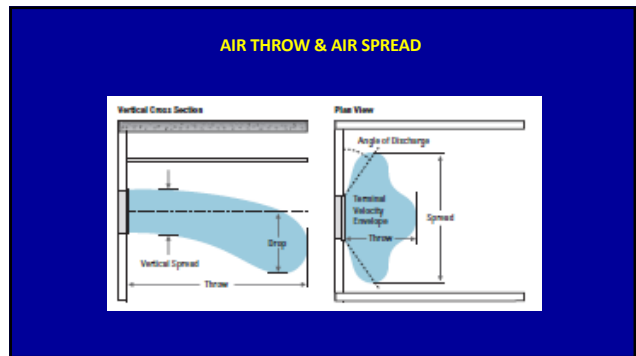
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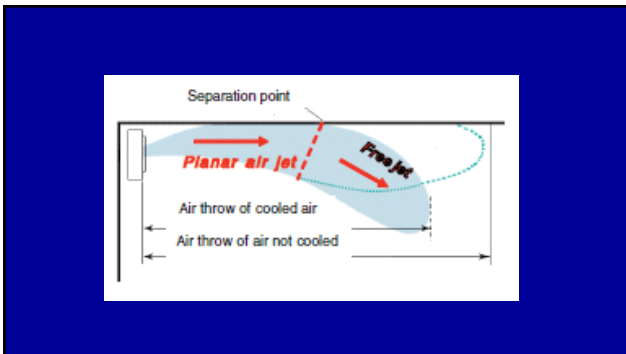
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STANDARD POTATO COLD STORAGE-2000MT

- Chamber Size each -21m Lx16m Wx13.7m H
 Volume 4603 m³, floor Area=226 m²
- (Refrigeration load -85.32kW)-NHB DOCUMENT
- In each room normally there would be three air cooler units, each of 33kW, and air quantity of each is approx.39000 CMH, for 3 coolers it would be 1,17,000 CMH

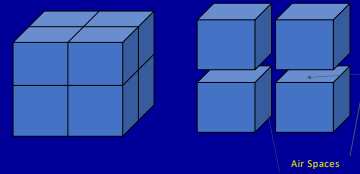
90

ADEQUATE AIR QUANTITY BASED ON ROOM SIZE

- If we consider the same room for storing frozen product which is frozen elsewhere and brought to the cold rooms.
- All other parameters remaining constant as above except insulation which would be 150mm thick, instead 100mm since it is low temperature room and assuming that the product temperature while loading has increased to -15 deg. C, which was frozen earlier elsewhere at -20 deg. C-Refrigeration Load 24.8 kW
- There would be 2 air coolers each of 13kW having air volume as having Approx. 13000CMH each cooler, totaling to **26,000CMH** as against positive temperature storage would have $39000\text{CMH} \times 3 = 1,17,000\text{ CMH}$
- Conclusion-Air quantity Inadequate for room size-Always Select based on room Size-Considering -Throw-Spread-drop-Velocity-0.5m/s at 85 to 90% distance

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AIR SPACES BETWEEN PACKAGES



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INCORRECT USE OF SPACE



Product stacked haphazardly in aisles due to a lack of suitable racking space.

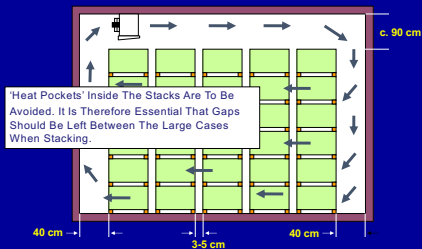
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NO PROPER AIR CIRCULATION ON PRODUCT



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AIR CIRCULATION IN THE COLDROOM

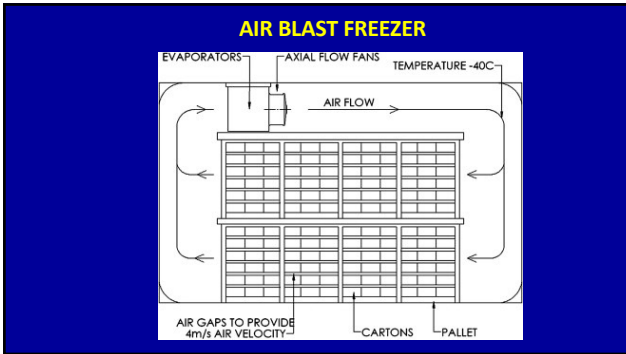


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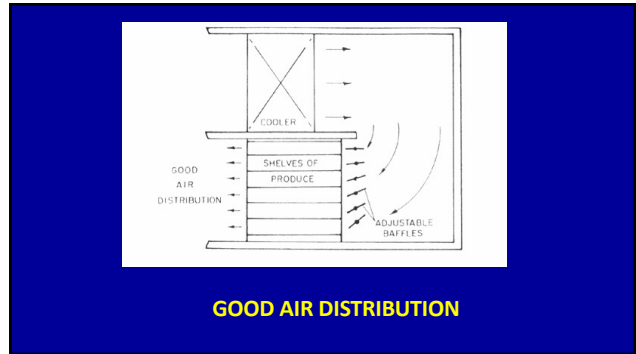
AIR BLAST FREEZER



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98

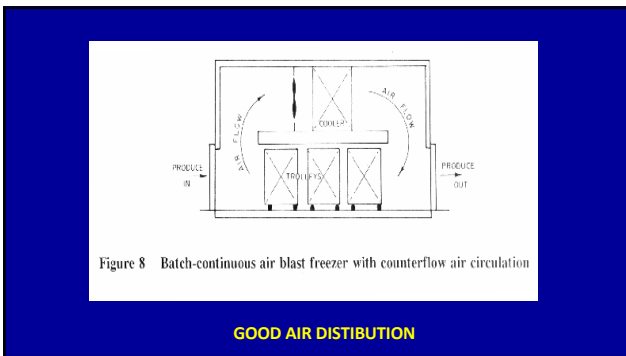
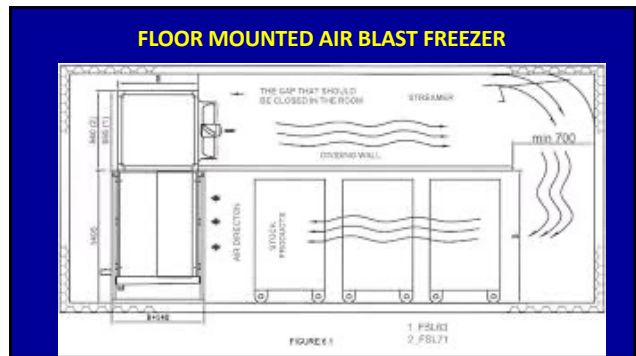


Figure 8 Batch-continuous air blast freezer with counterflow air circulation

GOOD AIR DISTRIBUTION

99



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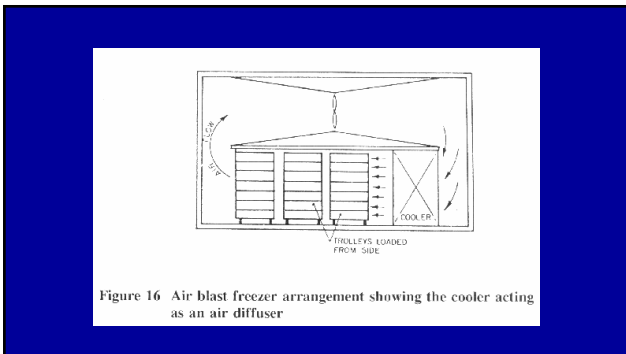
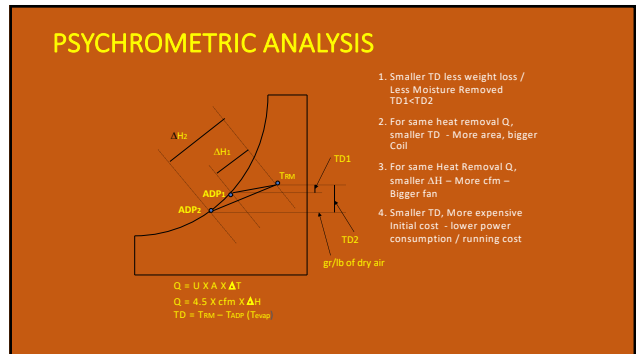
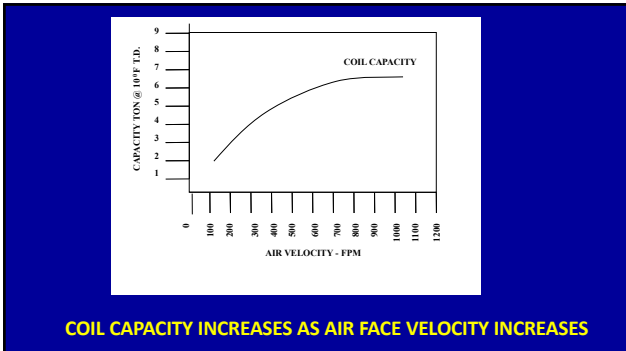


Figure 16 Air blast freezer arrangement showing the cooler acting as an air diffuser

101



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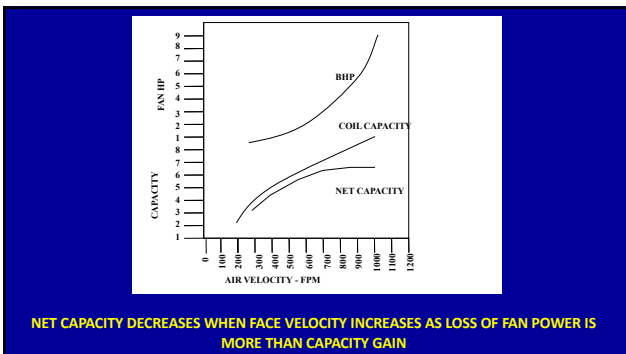


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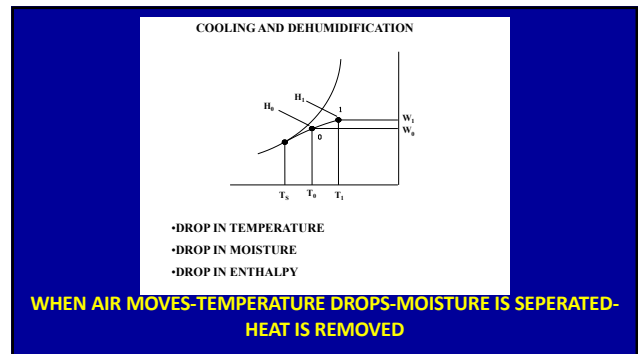
FAN LAWS

1. Volume flow:- $q_{v2} = q_{v1} \times \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)^1 \times \left(\frac{d_2}{d_1}\right)^3$
2. Pressure:- $p_2 = p_1 \times \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)^2 \times \left(\frac{d_2}{d_1}\right)^2 \times \left(\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1}\right)^1$
3. Absorbed power:- $P_{R2} = P_{R1} \times \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)^3 \times \left(\frac{d_2}{d_1}\right)^5 \times \left(\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1}\right)^1$

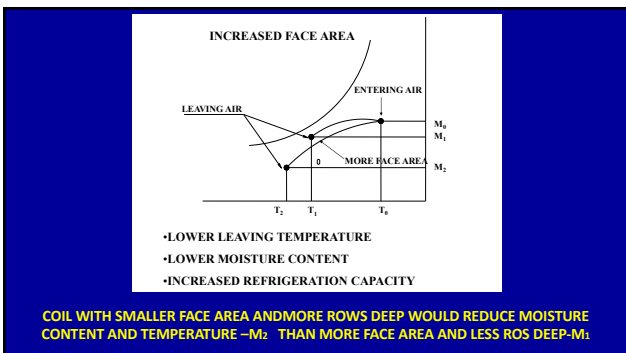
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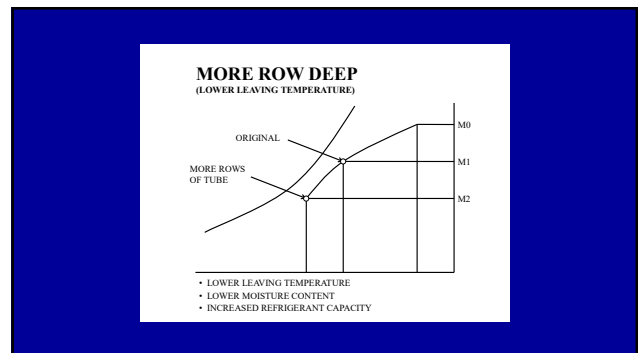
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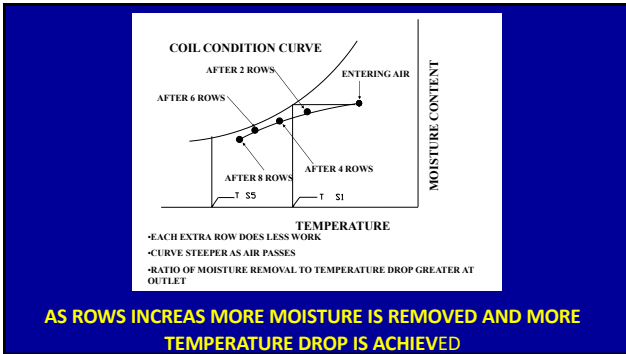
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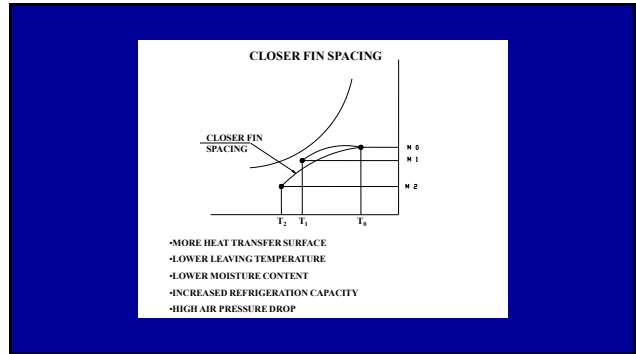
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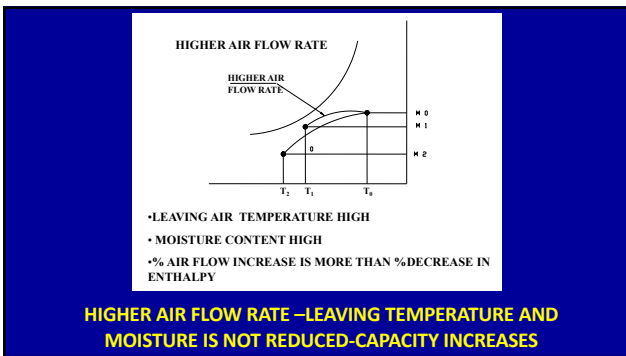
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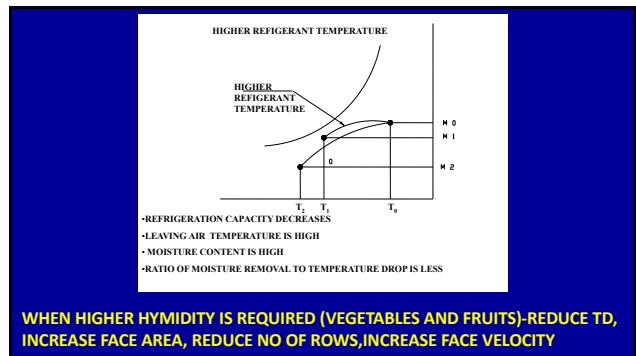
109



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QUESTIONS?
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