# METROPOLITAN NY CHAPTER **Refrigeration Service Engineers Society**

Continuing Education for the HVAC/R Industry



The HVACR Training Authority Metropolitan New York Chapter

# "Better Service Through Knowledge"

## **April 2017** WWW.METRONYRSES.ORG



### **Window Air Conditioners Low Refrigerant Charge**

While repairing window air conditioners, it is not uncommon for the system problem to be due to a loss of refrigerant.

Depending on how much refrigerant has been lost, diagnosing this problem may be quite simple. Remove the system from its casing and operate it for about 5 to 10 minutes.

If frost develops on the outlet of the capillary tube and does not dissipate after several minutes of operating, the system has lost some of its refrigerant. If allowed to operate in this fashion, this frost will begin to develop on the surface of the evaporator and will eventually restrict the airflow across the evaporator further compounding the problem. The absence of frost on the outlet of the capillary tube does not always mean the system has a full refrigerant charge. If enough refrigerant has been lost no frost will appear.



A technician should not always conclude that frost on the evaporator is due to a low refrigerant charge. Other system problems such as a restricted airflow across the evaporator (dirty air filter, or blower) or too cold of a return air temperature can also lead to this problem.

An easy way to tell the difference is to defrost the evaporator, verify that the airflow across the evaporator is sufficient and then operate the system for 5 to 10 minutes.

Again, if frost develops on the outlet of the capillary tube and does not dissipate after several minutes of operating, the system has lost some of its refrigerant.

#### **Testing for Evaporator Leaks**

Locating and repairing refrigerant leaks associated with air

conditioning systems is a common task for many technicians. Sometimes locating a leak can be tricky. If the leak is in an area which is not easily accessible, it may be difficult to locate. One such location on residential split system air conditioners is within the evaporator section. The evaporator is enclosed in either a ple-



num or its own casing. To leak search this area, a section of the casing surrounding the evaporator must be removed. On some systems this may be a time-consuming task.

If this is the case, the following procedure can be used to initially determine if there is a refrigerant leak in that section before removing any panels.

- 1. Make sure the system still contains some amount of the refrigerant.
- 2. If the evaporator has any ice on its coils, remove the ice before proceeding. If the system has a forced-air furnace attached, turn the system to the heating mode to defrost the evaporator. If not, allow the indoor blower to run without the compressor running to defrost the evaporator.
- Turn off all system power and allow the system's pressure to equalize.
- 4. Warm up and calibrate (if needed) a good quality electronic leak detector.
- Set the leak detector to its highest sensitivity.
- Locate the evaporator's drain outlet and remove a section of the piping close the evaporator's drain pan.
- 7. Position the detector's probe at the drain opening (be careful to avoid any water coming in contact with the probe).
- 8. Leave the probe in this area for at least ten minutes or until a leak is sensed.
- 9. Remove the electronic leak detector's probe, recalibrate if needed, and repeat Step 8.
- 10. If a leak is detected on both tests, then remove the required casing to expose the evaporator and pinpoint the exact location of the leak.



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For Further Information Call: Stan Hollander @ 718 232-6679

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## METROPOLITAN NEW YORK CHAPTER, RSES

For Information Call: Stan Hollander, CMS (718) 232-6679

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Next month I will list the various advantages of belonging to RSES. There are many, and I feel that it would be a good time to review them. There are probably some that you have forgotten about.

However, this month I want to review what we, your local chapter, offers its' members.

First, there are our monthly meetings. In case you haven't noticed, they are all educational. Each month Stan Hollander CMS has arranged an interesting speaker on a topic of interest to you, our technicians. He gets speakers through member's suggestions and his own research. There is never a charge to attend a meeting. Your Board of Directors meets on another night to plan and schedule chapter activities. so our monthly meetings are strictly educational, and never boring.

We try to schedule FULL-DAY Educational Seminars twice a year. Enclosed with this meeting notice is information and a registration form for our next seminar on April 22nd. There is a discounted rate for members.

The chapter also conducts EPA and NATE testing. EPA testing can be done at most meetings and should be arranged with Stan Hollander, CMS at:

<u>EducationalDirector@metroNYRSES.org.</u> NATE testing can be arranged by contacting me at <u>President@metroNYRSES.org</u>.

The chapter also maintains a chapter web site at <a href="www.MetroNYRSES.org">www.MetroNYRSES.org</a>. Here you can see upcoming events and contact any of the chapter officers. Suggestions for speakers for meetings or seminars are always welcome.

# Wednesday April 12th, 2017 at 7:30 pm

RICCARDO'S 21-01 24th Avenue, Astoria NY 11102

# Critical Components: Trouble-Shooting HVACR Electric Motors

By

Rick Streacker, Packard Electric