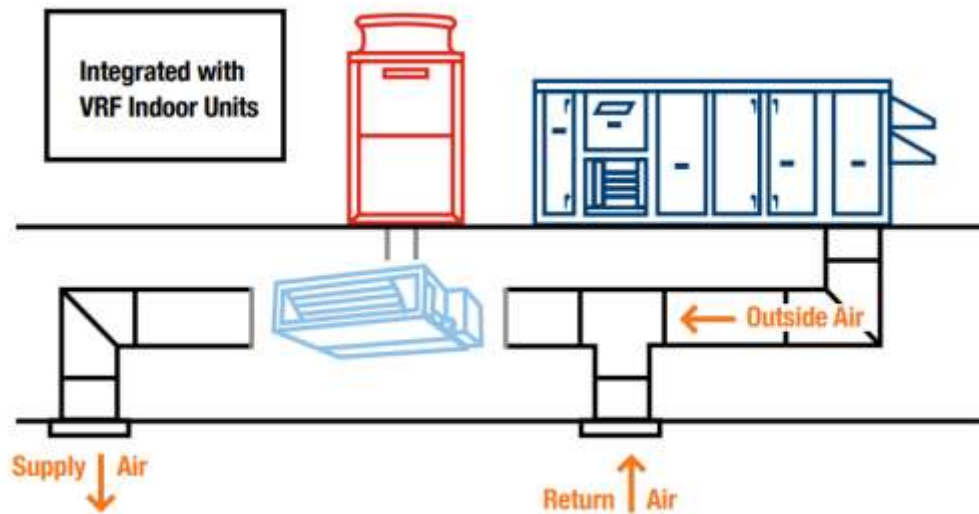


Ventilation & VRF Strategies

Rachel Roy, PE

MIAQ & Energy Conference - October 30, 2023

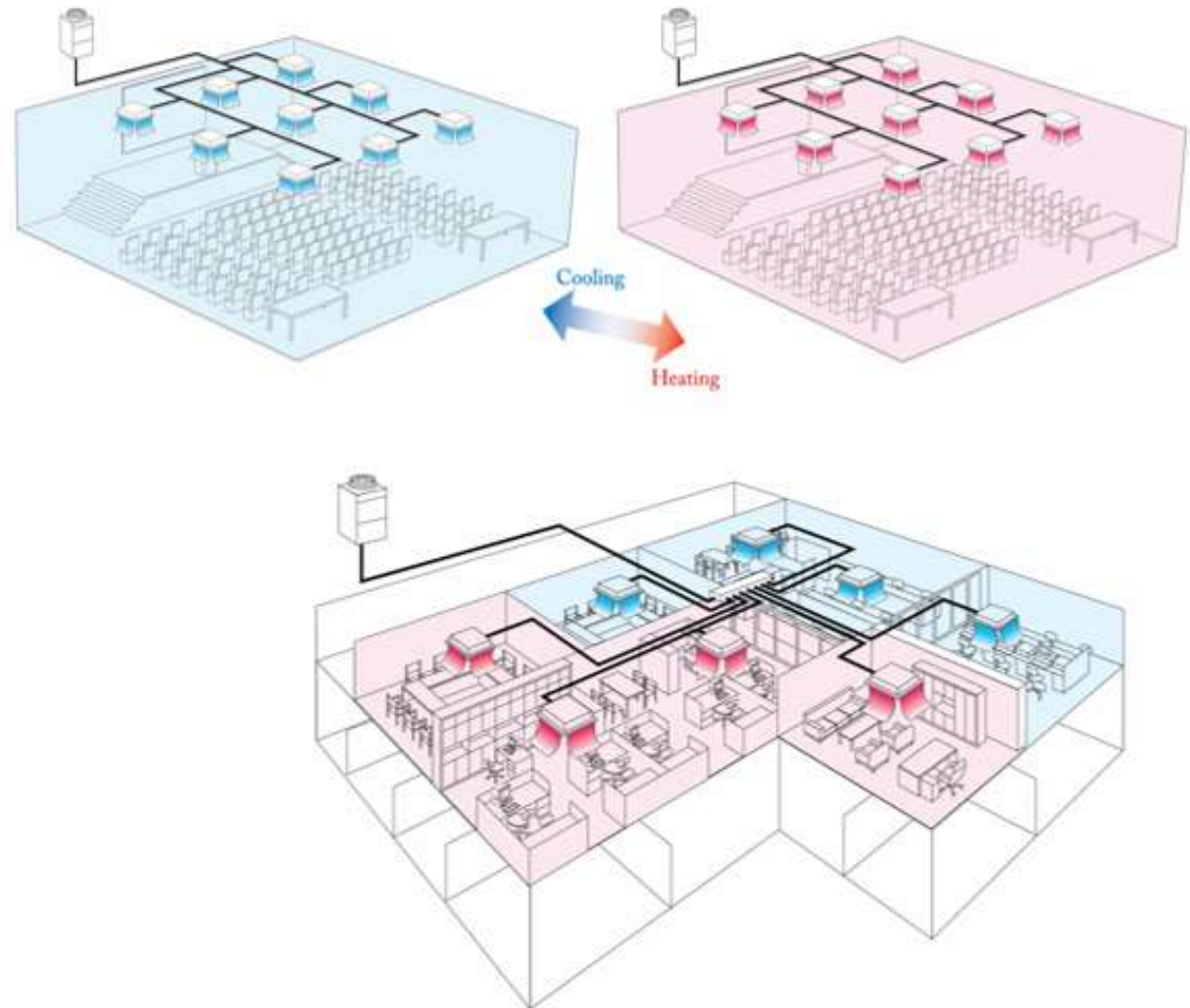
Ventilation & VRF Strategies



- Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF)
- Ventilation Overview
- Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems (DOAS) & VRF
- Energy & Heat Recovery Systems & VRF
- Linear Expansion Valve Kits
- Filtration & VRF
- Refrigerant Concerns
- Hybrid VRF

Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Systems

- Available as either heat pump (changeover) or heat pump with heat recover (simultaneous)
- Linear Expansion Valve (LEV) is located in the indoor units.
- This allows more indoor units and longer line lengths than multi-split systems with greater turndown and efficiencies.



Ventilation Requirements

- Building and occupancy type
- ANSI/ASHRAE 62.1 Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality
- ANSI/ASHRAE 62.2 Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings
- ANSI/ASHRAE 90.1 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings



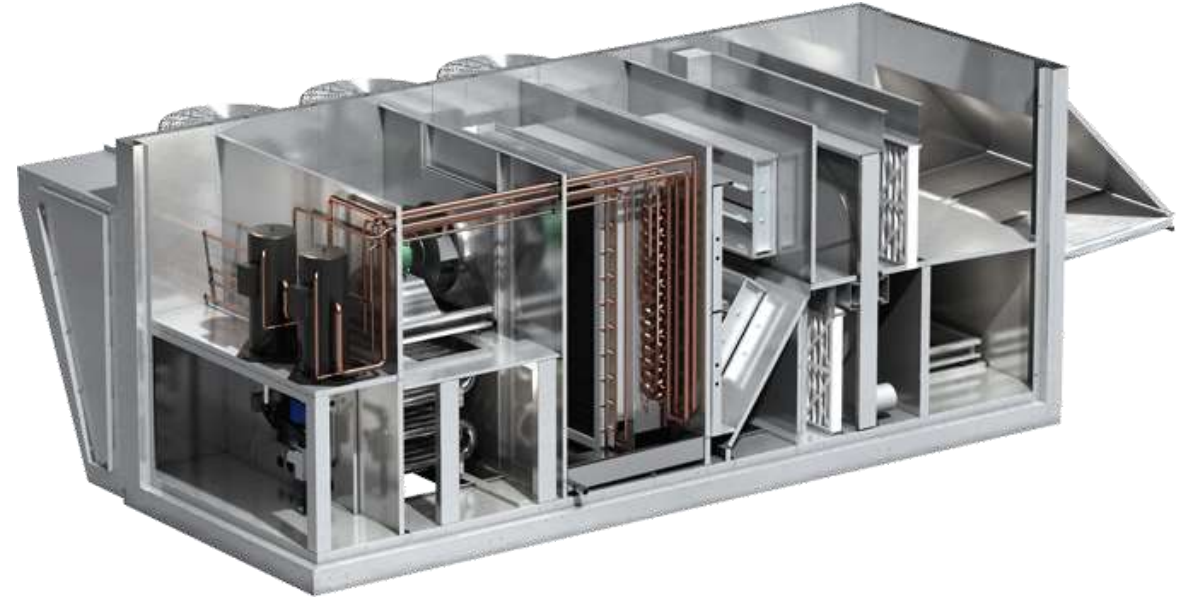
Ventilation Equipment: Rooftop DOAS most common

- Advantages:
 - Familiar design / installation
 - Single point for maintenance
- Challenges
 - Considerable time & cost relating to fire-rated shaft(s)
 - Duct losses increase operation costs for life of system



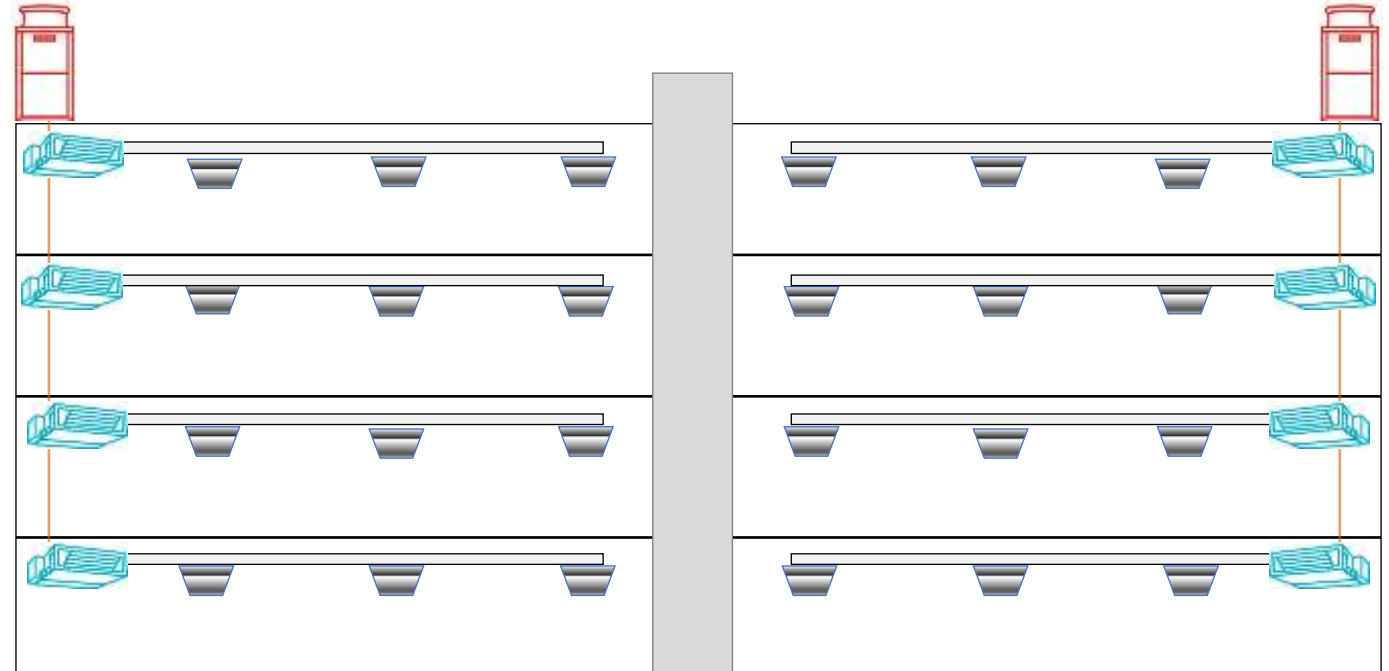
DOAS Systems

- Many sizes available
- Hot gas reheat option
- Indirect gas, hot water, heat pump electric heat options
- Recirculation damper option
- Inclusion of energy recovery wheel or heat recovery core options
- Option to pair with VRF outdoor unit
- Controls can be integrated with VRF system



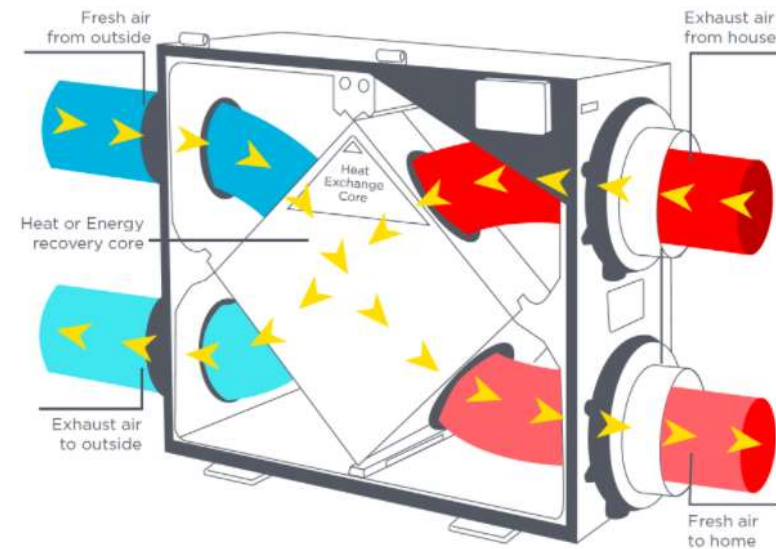
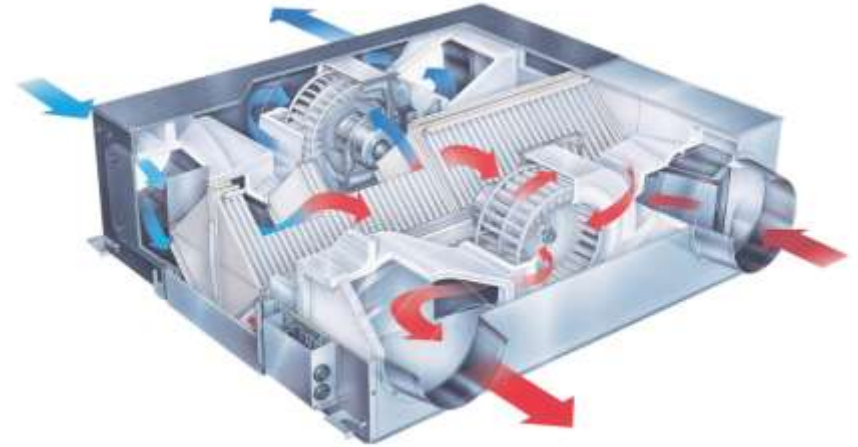
Ventilation Equipment: Floor by Floor is the Future

- Advantages:
 - Eliminates costs relating to fire-rated shafts
 - Redundancy & energy savings of zoned ventilation
 - Compliant with new energy codes limiting reheat to 60F
 - IU in zone can compensate for any over-cooling
- Challenges
 - Might be unfamiliar approach



ERV & HRV Systems

- Smaller sized for more flexible installations and duct sizes
- ERVs recover both sensible and latent energy
- HRVs recover sensible energy only, and may be used where dehumidification is needed
- Can be paired with LEV kits
- Can tie into some VRF indoor units to supply fresh air to the space
- Controls can be integrated with VRF



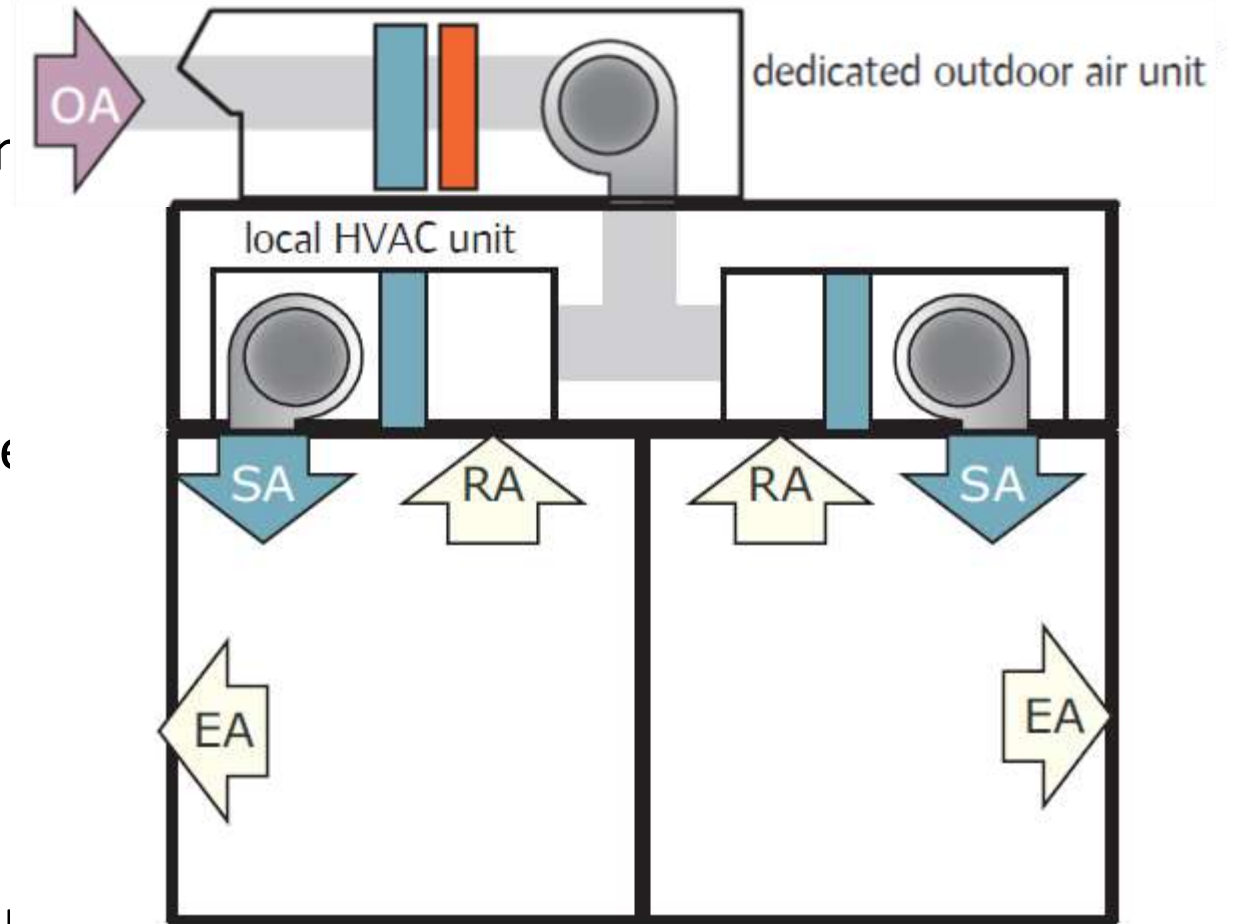
Linear Expansion Valve (LEV) Kit

- LEV Kit can be used for ventilation with a range of products:
 - Duct mounted coil
 - Blower coil
 - Unitary AHU
 - Configurable AHU
 - Custom AHU
 - HRV
 - ERV
- Adjustable supply air temperature set point:
 - Cooling: 46°F to 80°F
 - Heating: 63°F to 95°F
- Entering air temperature range:
 - Cooling: 59°FWB to 75°FWB
 - Heating: 0°FDB to 59°FDB



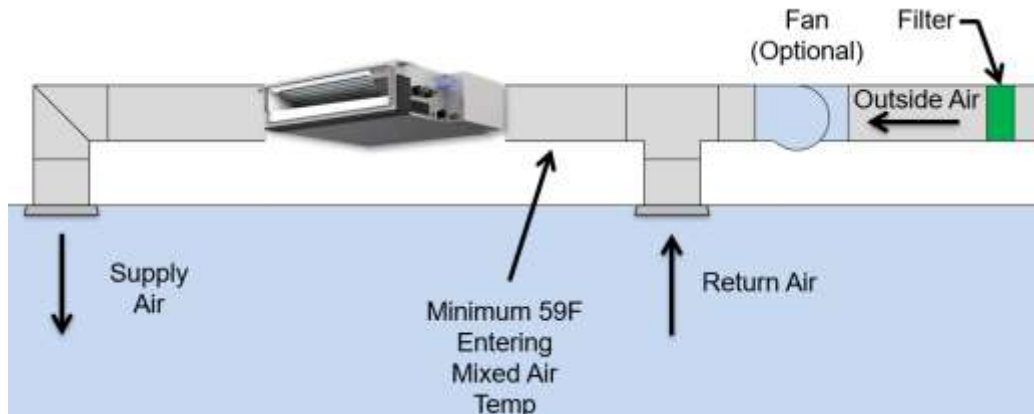
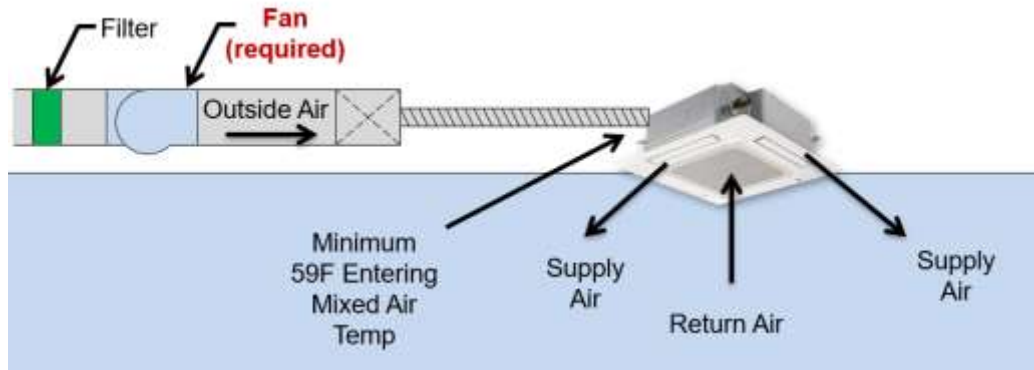
Ventilation Distribution: Direct to Indoor Unit

- Advantages:
 - Reduces cost and space for additional duct and diffusers
 - Easier to ensure OA is adequately dispersed throughout zone
 - Little to no reheat should be required
- Challenges:
 - Measurement & balancing more difficult
 - IDU fan must operate continuously provide the OA during occupancy
 - IDU fan must operate if DOAS system operates during unoccupied period



Ventilation & VRF Indoor Units

- Fresh air ducts can be connected directly to many ceiling cassettes, fresh air must be powered
- Ducted units can accept fresh air ducted directly to the return air side, no additional fan power needed
- Pay attention to fresh air CFM to ensure it isn't too high for that indoor unit
- Also check the mixed air temp of the fresh air and room return air, often fresh air in our climate requires treatment prior to the coil.

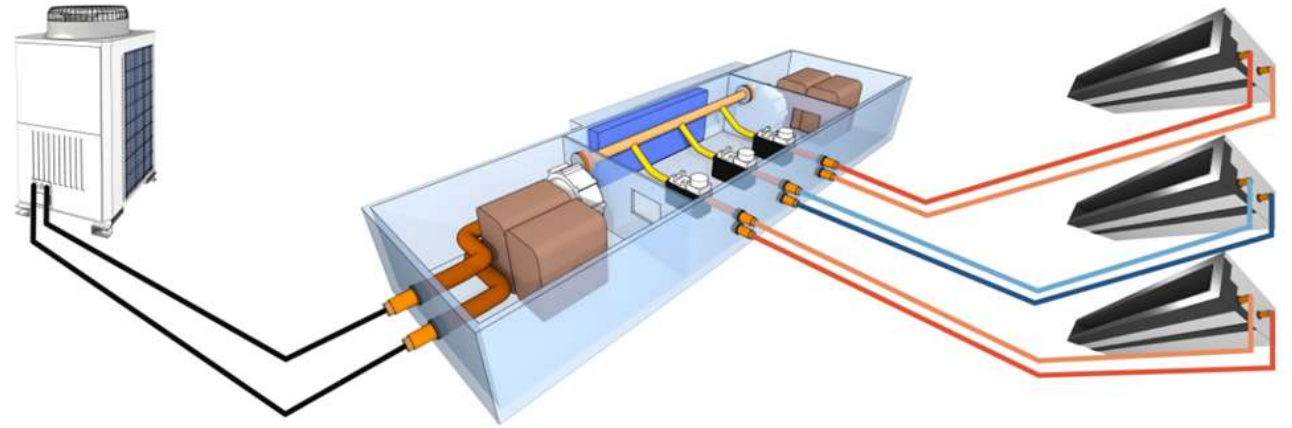


Filtration & VRF Indoor Units

- Schools want MERV-13 minimum filtration for recirculated air
- Best indoor units to accomplish that are ducted units, though you can also add some filtration to ceiling cassettes
- Ceiling cassettes can often add filtration, up to MERV 10-13
- Filter boxes can be added to ducted units for up to MERV 13 filtration



Hybrid VRF



- Definition:
- Hybrid VRF is a unique combination of a Heat Recovery VRF system and a Traditional 4-Pipe Fan Coil system. Hybrid VRF takes the advantages of both system types and puts them together in a single easy to install package with fully integrated controls onboard.

Industry Drivers for HVRF

Updates to ASHRAE 15 / 34 & UL 60355-2-40 Safety Standard

- May Require Built in Detection Systems to Monitor Refrigerant Leakage
- May Require Additional Mitigation Systems

International Mechanical Code 2018

- Adds Restrictions of Refrigerant Piping in Egress Corridors

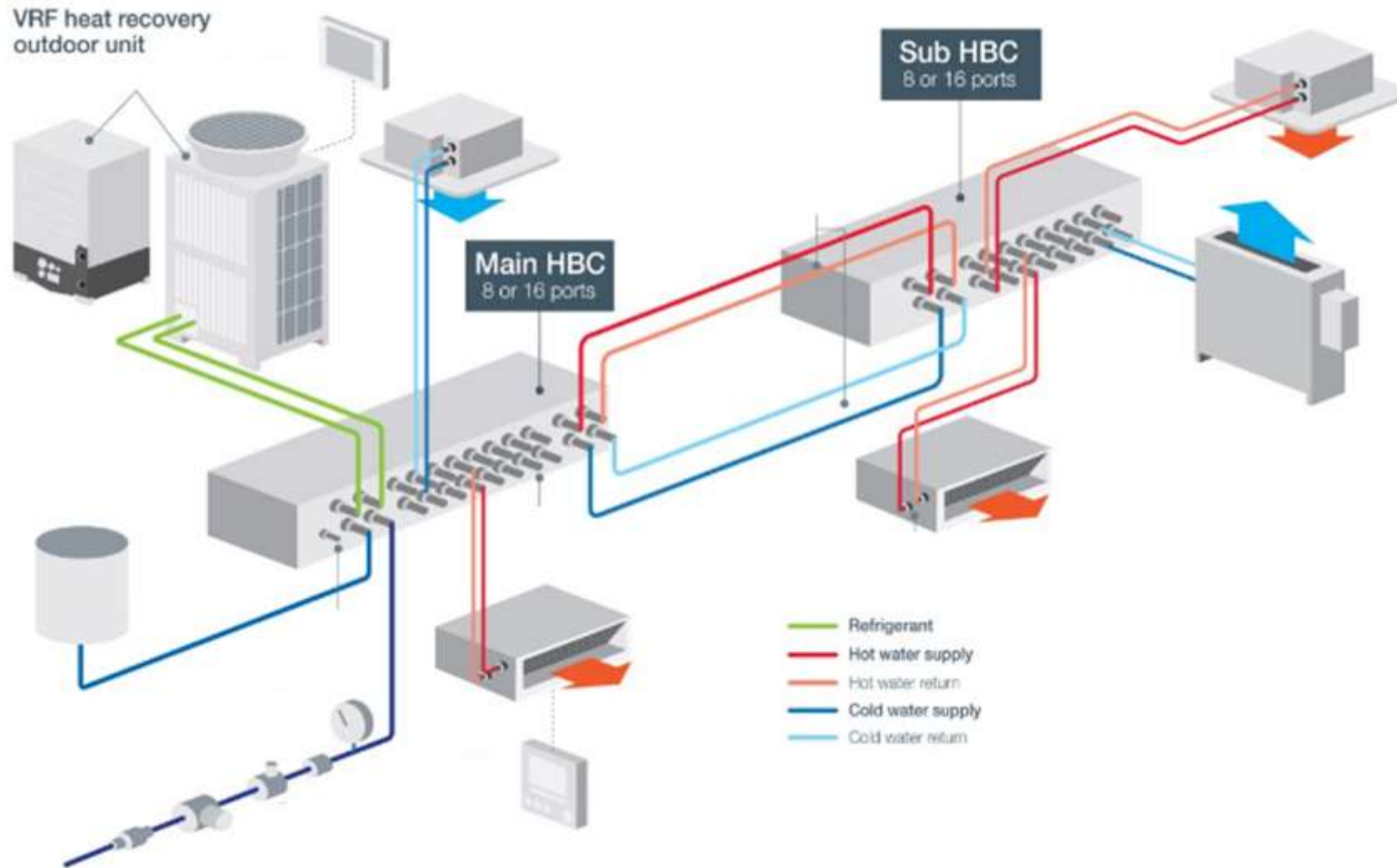
R-410A Refrigerant Phase Out Starting 2026 (<750 GWP Required)

- Forces VRF into Low Flammability A2L Refrigerant
 - (RCL as low as 4.8 lbs / 1000ft³ vs 26 lbs / 1000ft³ of R410A)
- Other US Markets Following for Low GWP push (2088 GWP -> 466 GWP)

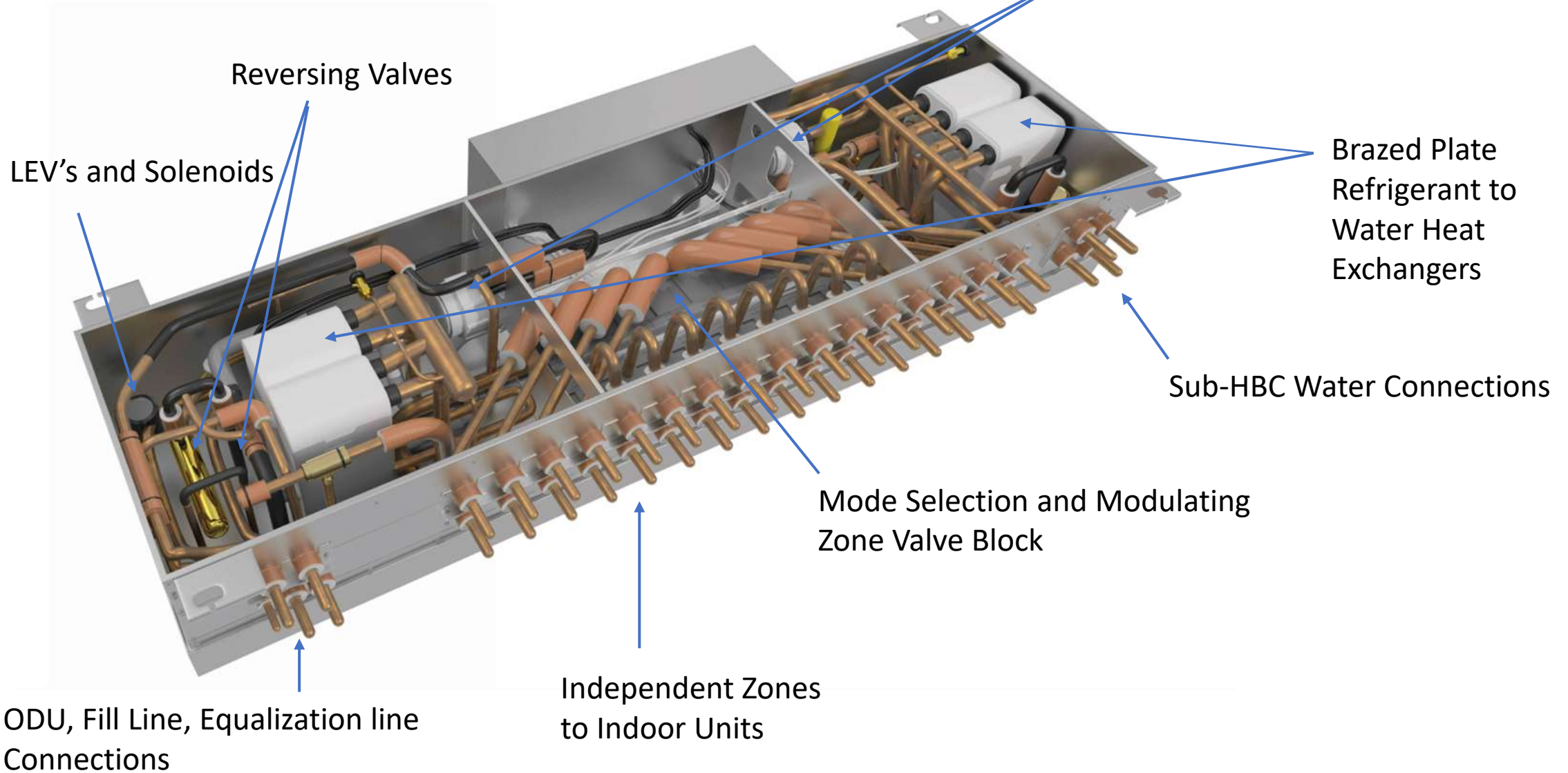
Hotel Standards for VRF Systems – Refrigerant Monitor Requirement or Max ODU Tonnage

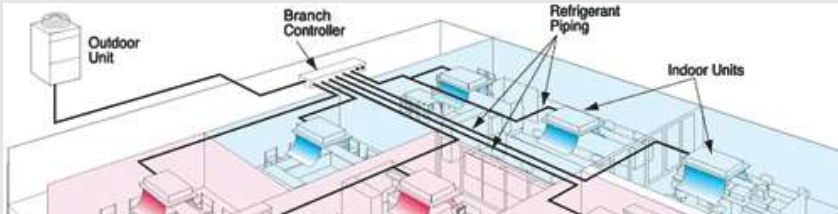


Technical Overview

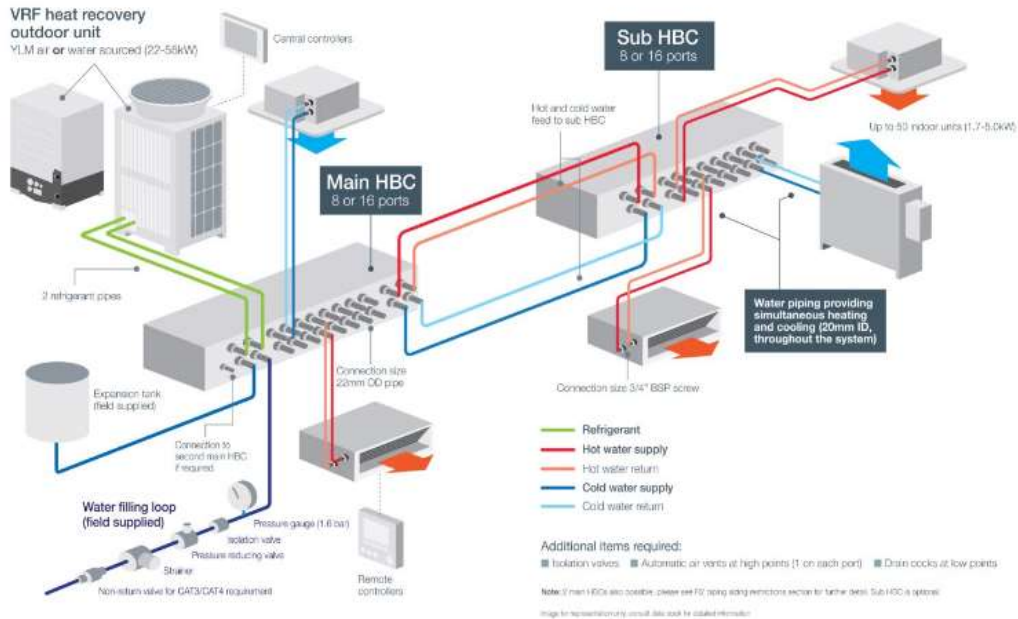


Hybrid VRF Main HBC – Heart of HVRF

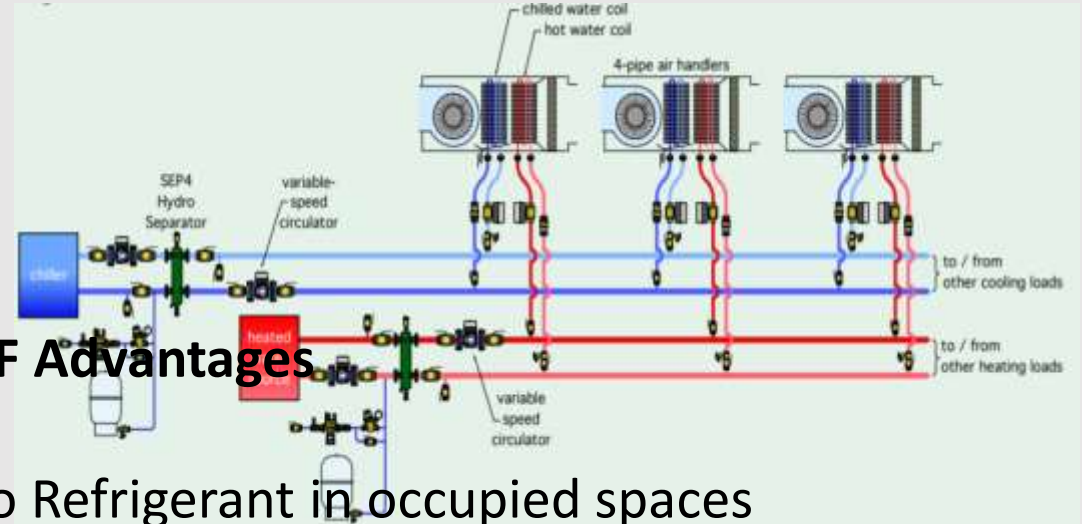




Technical Overview



- High Efficiency
- Install and Design Flexibility



HVRF Advantages

- No Refrigerant in occupied spaces
- Tighter Temperature Control
- Quieter Indoor units w/ 1/2 Mode Change Noise
- Similar Efficiency to VRF Systems
 - Stable Off-Coil Leaving Air Temperatures
- Future Proof of Refrigerant Changes
 - Quiet Mode Transitions between Heating and Cooling
- Full Integrated Controls Built-In
- Easy Install / Less Risk Due to Poor Installation
 - Needed in Design
 - Quiet Operation

4-Pipe Fan Coil Advantages

Conclusion

Questions?

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