

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST
REGARDING
UTAB:**

- Celebrating 32 years in business.
- 2007 was UTAB's most successful year.
- Over 25% of our TAB technicians are certified Test and Balance Engineers.

Reporting Air Flows for Variable Volume Research Laboratories

By Jimmy Thomas,
AABC TBE

Variable volume laboratories are a little more complicated to report than laboratories with constant volume air flows. We have encountered a large project with multiple floors of variable volume research labs. Some of the laboratories had laboratory hoods with variable exhaust flows, general exhaust with variable exhaust flows, and supply air with variable flows. Some of the laboratories just had variable supply flows and variable general exhaust flows. Each laboratory had a design offset air flow which

could be positive, neutral, or negative.

The laboratories with variable supply and general exhaust air flows had to be reported showing air flows along with the offset in both cooling maximum and heating minimum modes. We came up with a data sheet to record this data for each of the laboratories.

(Figure 1. Data shows us that with the thermostat set for the heating mode that the laboratory has an actual negative 195cfm offset with a design of 200 cfm. With the thermostat set for the cooling mode the laboratory had an actual

negative 210 offset.)

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Change Is In The Air

With the arrival of 2008 United Testing and Balancing, Inc. (UTAB) celebrates its 32nd year in business.

As we celebrate another anniversary UTAB would like to re-establish a monthly publication to educate, inform and enlighten

UTAB team members (and possibly broaden our publication to customers as well.)

The success of this publication will rely on your participation and contributions.

We need your input into all aspects of this publication.



Reporting Air Flows for Variable Volume Research Laboratories

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The laboratories that had variable volume hoods, variable volume general exhaust and variable volume supply had to have a different data sheet for recording test results. For each laboratories variable volume hoods, there are four different modes that must be reported. Each mode has two deciding factors that determine the general exhaust air flow. One is the position of the hood sash and second is the temperature mode, heating or cooling. Figure 2 is an example data sheet used to report the test results.

The test result recorded in Figures 1 and 2 were required for the commissioning process at the close of the project. The data sheets helped to keep test data organized and on one separate sheet for each laboratory.

As mentioned, this was a large project with multiple laboratories on multiple floors. Each laboratory had electronic air valves from one manufacturer and electronic controls from another manufacturer. It was a very complicated job with a plus or minus 5 percent balance tolerance. The end result was

successful by working hand in hand with the air valve service technician, the HVAC control technician and the test and balance company.

This is a reminder about the information that needs to be reported on the test and balance report. Make sure to read the test and balance specifications and commissioning specifications very carefully. The specifications will provide you with the specific information that will need to be included in the final report for a specific project.

“Make sure to read the test and balance specifications very carefully. “

Interesting websites, upcoming events etc.

Did you know?

The Freecycle Network (Freecycle.org) is a community-based service made up of 4,225 groups with over 4,000,000 members across the globe. It's a grassroots and entirely non-profit movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and

keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer.

Membership is free.

There are several groups in the Tennessee area.

(Information source: Freecycle website)

Have a suggestion for an informative website? Know of a special upcoming event? If you have an item others might be interested submit your suggestions to kogles@utabinc.com by the 15th for publication in the next month's issue.

WWW...Walter's Winning Words



As you already know everyone's door in the office is always open. We are always looking for suggestions and new ideas.

—We are in the process of making laptops available for all technicians (along with company email addresses). This will provide the makings for improved company-wide communication as well as with our customers. Unfortunately everyone's memories can be short. Written documentation is the best medicine to help cure "selective

memory". A brief follow-up email summarizing a conversation will help assure all parties understand the directives or goal to be obtained. If information was misunderstood, the problem can be corrected early to help save time and money for all.

—Returning phone calls and doing what you say you are going to do are important aspects. Phone calls should be returned the same day and as soon as possible. Calls not promptly returned can

misrepresent a lack of concern or interest in the caller. Also if you tell a person you are going to do something (i.e. send a fax, be at a job site, etc.) follow through. If you can not fulfill your promise or will be delayed, a quick call to inform someone of the change can avoid a problem later.

Live the golden rule and we will always be successful.

Thanks to everyone for a great job!

Golf...combines two favorite American pastimes: taking long walks and hitting things with a stick.

—P. J. O'Rourke, Modern Manners

Cheers for the Month:

Congratulations to Tony Kennedy for 20 years at UTAB.

Someone in your family celebrating a birthday? Let us know their name and birth month so we can add to our list and acknowledge their celebration as well. Special anniversary on the calendar.? Let us know that too!

Reminder: Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Go ahead and pick your card up early. You'll be ahead of the game.

Famous February Birthdays:

Abraham Lincoln
George Washington



Keep in your thoughts...

Sometimes it's assumed that news has been shared with others about challenges team members may be facing with their family, etc. In order to try to communicate better a section will be devoted to those (with approval) who could use a little extra support during a life challenge.



Sean, Jo and Ian Davidson as Sean continues to recuperate from his hip surgery. He has recently had his cast removed and continues to progress.

Tony Kennedy, as he perseveres the challenges of aging parents.

Dennis Pickard as he continues to heal from the loss of his mother.



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“We do it right!”

United Testing and Balancing, Inc. began as an independent test and balance agency in 1976 and maintains its corporate office in Nashville, Tennessee. Since 1976, UTAB has tested and balanced a variety of projects. We are also qualified to certify cooling tower performances and measure sound and vibration. In conjunction, Phase I Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) investigations and IAQ Assurance Monitoring of buildings for owners and property managers are included in our scope of services.

Old fashioned values with modern technology are combined to assure project success.



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