



Industrial Coils: Common Terms

Fin Height (FH) – height of finned area measured in the same direction as the header (90° to tubes, or “tubes high” direction).

Fin Length (FL) – length of finned area measured in the same direction as the tubes.

Case Height (CH) – height of coil measured from outer case flange to outer case flange, in the same direction as the header.

Case Length (CL) – length of coil measured from outer case flange to outer case flange, in the same direction as the tubes.

Case Depth (CD) – depth of coil case measured in the direction of airflow.

Airflow – flow rate of process air that is passing over fins of the coil, expressed either volumetrically (see ACFM) or in terms of mass flow (lb/hr, kg/hr or SCFM).

SCFM – standard cubic feet per minute (since the density is known this is a unit of mass flow rate). Although it is expressed in volumetric terms, this is actually a mass flow rate of standard air which has a density of 0.075 pounds per cubic foot (sea level and 70°F).

ACFM – actual cubic feet per minute (a unit of volumetric flow rate). To calculate the mass flow rate, you must know the air density which is dependent on temperature, humidity content, and pressure/elevation among other factors.

Face Velocity – volumetric flow rate of air divided by coil face area (fin height x fin length). Typically reported in ft/min or fpm.

Fluid Flow – tube side fluid/steam flow rate. Steam is typically reported in lb/hr, or volumetric flow rate at a given pressure and temperature. Liquids are typically reported either in mass flow (lb/hr) or volumetric flow rate (gal/min or gpm) at a known density.

Glycol – typically refers to either ethylene or propylene glycol, both common components of tube side stream in fluid coils. Specified as either a % mass or % volume of solution in water.

MAWP – maximum allowable working pressure. The highest pressure that a coil's construction is designed to withstand, always specified with a maximum temperature.

MDMT – minimum design metal temperature.

FPI – fins per inch. Most common units of fin spacing, commonly in the range of 2-11 FPI. Fin spacing is sometimes reported in fins per foot.

Standard Steam Coil – steam coil designed in which steam is delivered directly to the tubes where it condenses and then drains from the tubes.

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Steam Distributing Coil – freeze-resistant (not freeze-proof) coil designed with tube-within-a-tube steam delivery.

Corrosion – chemical degradation of the tube or fin material due to the presence of corrosive agents in either the airstream or tube side stream.

Erosion – physical degradation of the interior of the tube walls due to high tube side velocities or a fluid stream contaminated with particulate.

Single Circuited – used to describe a fluid coil that has a single, full row of tubes joined to each header.

Double Circuited – used to describe a fluid coil that has two full rows of tubes joined to each header.

Partial Circuited – used to describe a fluid coil that has less than a full row of tubes joined to each header.

Saturated Steam – steam that is 100% vapor and exactly at water's boiling temperature at a given pressure.

Superheated Steam – steam that is heated above water's boiling temperature at a given pressure.

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