



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Honeywell International Inc.
Recommendation Number:	2003-13-I-LA-R22
Date Issued:	September 14, 2005
Recipient:	American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
New Status:	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
Date of Status Change:	December 29, 2015

Recommendation Text:

Develop guidance on the effective design and maintenance of HVAC systems and other necessary control room components designed to protect employees and equipment in the event of a release of hazardous materials.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On July 20, 2003, there was a release of chlorine gas from the Honeywell refrigerant manufacturing plant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The accident resulted in the hospitalization of four plant workers and required residents within a half-mile radius to shelter in their homes. On July 29, 2003, a worker was fatally injured by exposure to antimony pentachloride when a gas cylinder released its contents to the atmosphere. On August 13, 2003, two plant workers were exposed to hydrofluoric acid, and one was hospitalized.

During the July 20, 2003, incident, chlorine entered the control room through the HVAC system, forcing employees to evacuate before they could stop the leak. The chlorine then corroded the process control system, rendering it inoperable. The CSB determined that guidance and standards for design and maintenance of positive pressure control rooms were lacking in the U.S. chemical industry. The CSB therefore made a recommendation to ASHRAE to develop such guidance. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is an international association with a mission of advancing “the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.”¹ The organization works to accomplish its mission by performing research, publishing standards and other technical documents, and conducting continuing education.

B. Response to the Recommendation

ASHRAE has expressed support for the recommendation and has developed an outline of a new guidance document, “Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning of Hazardous Spaces,” proposed as either an ASHRAE handbook chapter or standard. ASHRAE has also indicated that they plan to begin drafting the guidance document in February 2016.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

¹ www.ashrae.org/about-ashrae, accessed December 1, 2015.

As ASHRAE has developed an outline for the guidance document called for in the recommendation and has indicated that they will begin drafting the document in February 2016, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2003-13-I-LA-R22 to: **“Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.”**