

Air Handling Units in the Truss Space

Locating large air handling units in the truss space of industrial facilities, rather than placing them on the roof significantly reduces the size and weight of the unit, its installation costs, its supporting structure, and the maintenance of the unit and roof membrane. It also provides maintenance personnel with a fall protected and comfortable working environment. Air handling units in the truss space do not require built-in service compartments and weather protection needed for roof mounted units. These units require supporting trusses deep enough to accommodate the unit and provide sufficient headroom for easy access and service. The units are erected by the structural steel contractor in sequence with the erection of the structural steel. This allows the units to be set with on-site equipment, rather than being set by the mechanical contractor using expensive helicopter lifts. The lighter units reduce the amount and costs of structural steel, which more than offset that of stairs, service platforms, catwalks and monorails. Access to the units is by stairway and catwalk. Each unit has an adjacent service platform, monorail, and hoist. Filters, parts, and tools can be raised or lowered through an opening between the unit and the catwalk. Personal fall protection equipment for maintenance personnel is not required, unless the gate to the access opening is opened. Maintenance can be done in less time and at anytime, since weather problems are nonexistent.

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