



CO₂ in Refrigeration: a Valuable Technology

Daniel Giguère, CETC-Varenes, AQME Trois-Rivières, April 11, 2008



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Presentation


For several years, carbon dioxide (CO₂) has been making a comeback in the refrigeration industry. The goal of this presentation is to provide information on the current status of the technologies and applications that use CO₂ as a refrigerant or coolant. The following points will be presented: a brief **history** of CO₂ in refrigeration, its **thermodynamic properties**, **safety measures**, **industrial**, commercial and residential applications, and finally, some **products available on the market**.


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History of CO₂






CO₂ REFRIGERATION
CARBONIC SAFETY SYSTEM
American Carbonic Machinery Co.



CO₂ compressor
Around 1900

CO₂ transcritical cycle



History of CO₂
(G. Lorentzen) of Norway


Initial concept of CO₂ as a refrigerant (Alexander Twining, British patent)

J&E Hall: first two-stage CO₂ refrigeration system

Golden age of CO₂

CFCs invented, 1928


Montreal protocol Jan. 1, 1989




1850 1920 ----- 1930 1960 1993


First CO₂ refrigeration system: Carle Linde


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The Thermodynamic Properties of CO₂



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CO₂ is now present in the atmosphere in a proportion approximately equal to 0.0375% in volume or **375 ppmv** (parts per million in volume). However, this concentration is increasing rapidly by about **2 ppmv/year** as a result of human activities involving the consumption of fossil fuels: coal, oil, gas.


CO₂ used in refrigeration is a by-product of ammonia and hydrogen production processes (Wikipedia).

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Properties

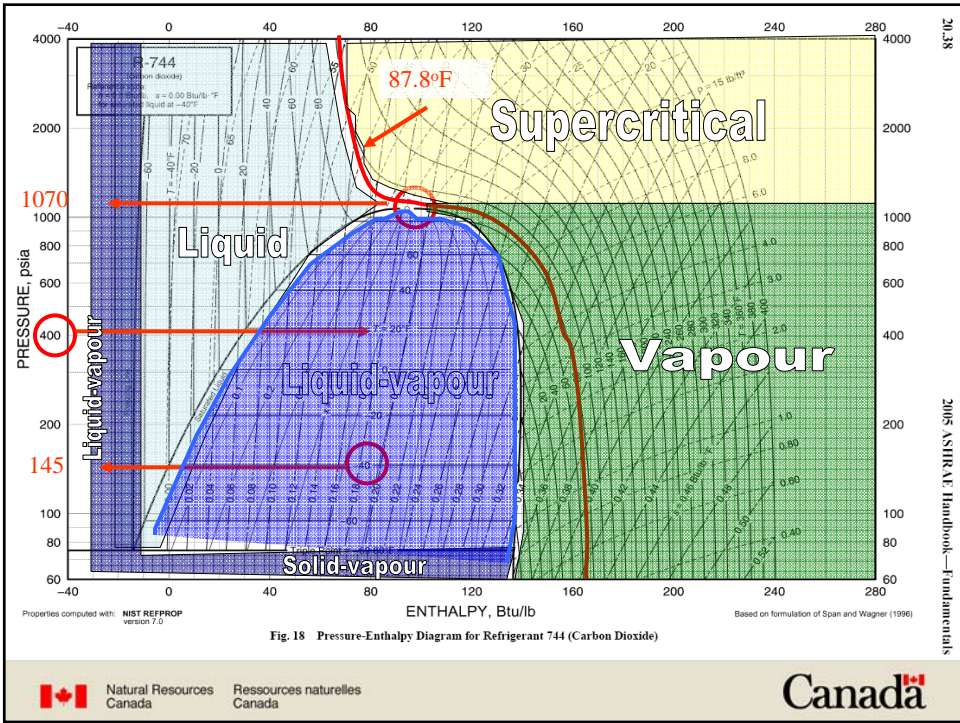
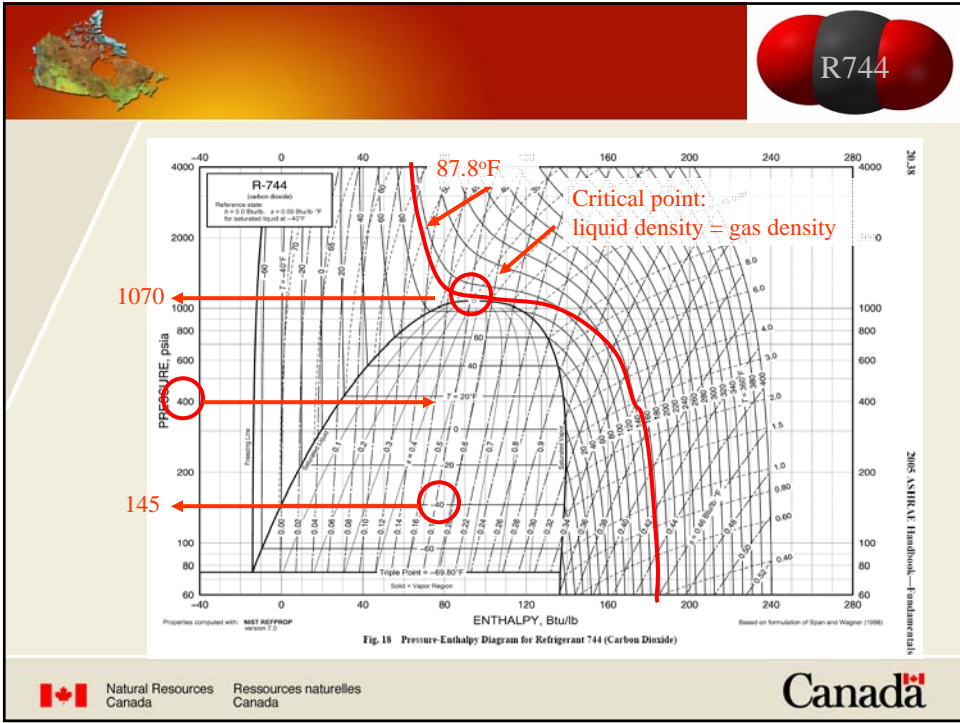




| Refrigerant | | R404A | NH ₃ | CO ₂ |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Natural refrigerant | | NO | YES | YES |
| Ozone Depletion Potential | ODP | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Global Warming Potential | GWP | 3260 | - | 1 |
| Critical condition [psi/°F] | | 541/162 | 1640/270 | 1067/88 |
| Boiling point at 15 psig [°F] | | -51 | -28 | -69 |
| Boiling point at 400 psig [°F] | | 137 | 144 | 16 |
| BTU/cubic foot at -40 [°F] | | 36 | 24 | 226 |
| Saturated ΔT / ΔP = 1 psi at -40 [°F] | | 2.1 | 3.4 | 0.3 |
| Flammability | | NO | (slight) | NO |
| Toxicity | | NO | YES | NO |

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Refrigeration cycles under critical conditions

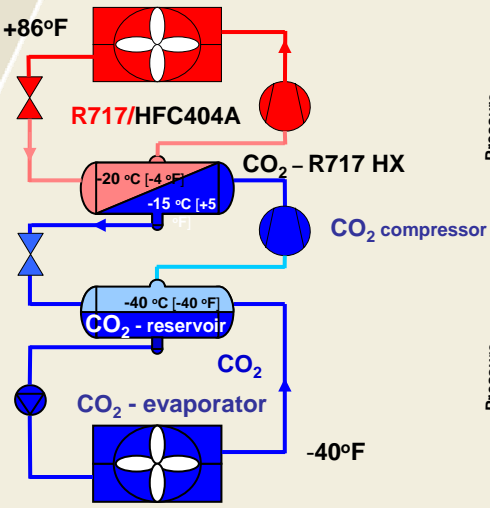
- Cascade systems
- DX systems
- Secondary fluids

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717-CO₂ Cascade System



R717

Pressure vs. Enthalpy



| |
|------------------|
| +30 °C (12 bar) |
| +86 °F (171 psi) |
| -20 °C (1.9 bar) |
| -4 °F (28 psi) |

CO₂

Pressure vs. Enthalpy

| |
|------------------|
| -15 °C (23 bar) |
| +5 °F (333 psi) |
| -40 °C (10 bar) |
| -40 °F (135 psi) |

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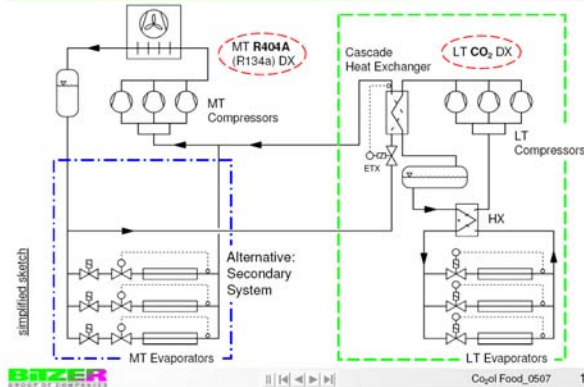
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DX 404A-CO₂ Cascade System



Example of a Supermarket Application – Medium Temp HFC / Low Temp CO₂ Cascade

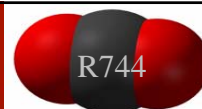


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BENEFITS

- Lower operating temperatures with higher production yields
- Up to 33% better efficiency on the low side
- Lower equipment cost
- Lower installation cost
- CO₂ is classified as nontoxic and nonflammable
- No ammonia in working/process/storage areas



412 Railroad Avenue · PO Box 449
 Federalsburg, Maryland 21632
 Tel: 410.754.8005 · Fax: 410.754.5813
 www.mmrefrigeration.com

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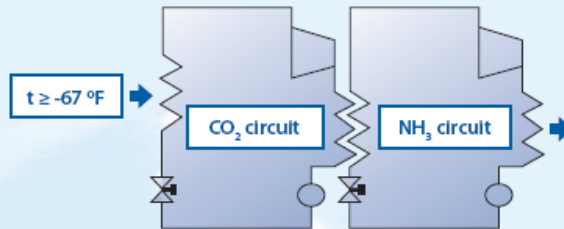
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CO₂ - Ammonia Cascade Systems



The innovative M&M Refrigeration CO₂/Ammonia concept is based on a cascade system that combines the advantages of CO₂ on the low-temperature side and ammonia on the high-temperature side. Ammonia is limited to the engine room. Only CO₂ will be present in working/storage area.



Differences CO₂ versus R717 on the low temperature side at -58 °F, 134TR:

| | CO ₂ | R717 |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Compressors | HPC1045 HPC1065 (-58 °F / +14 °F) | 3 x M&M H86BT (-58 °F / +5 °F) |
| Power Consumption | 183 HP | 229 HP |
| Odor - Toxic | | |

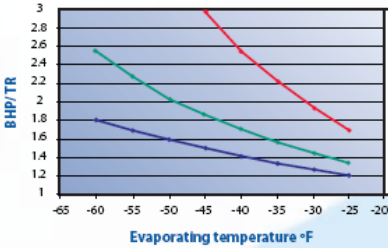


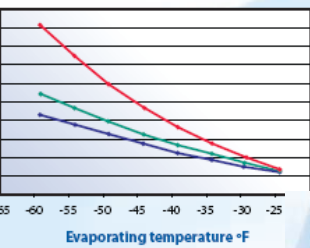
Low operating costs at low temperatures. Compared with conventional two-stage or single-stage systems with economizer, a CO₂ /Ammonia Cascade System uses significantly less power in the temperature range from -30 °F to -60 °F.


BHP/TR comparison of CO₂/Ammonia with conventional Ammonia Systems

50% Part Load



Full Load






— CO₂/Ammonia TD cascade =
6 °F (50% Part Load), 9 °F (Full Load)

— Two stage with open
intermediate cooler


— Single stage with
open economizer


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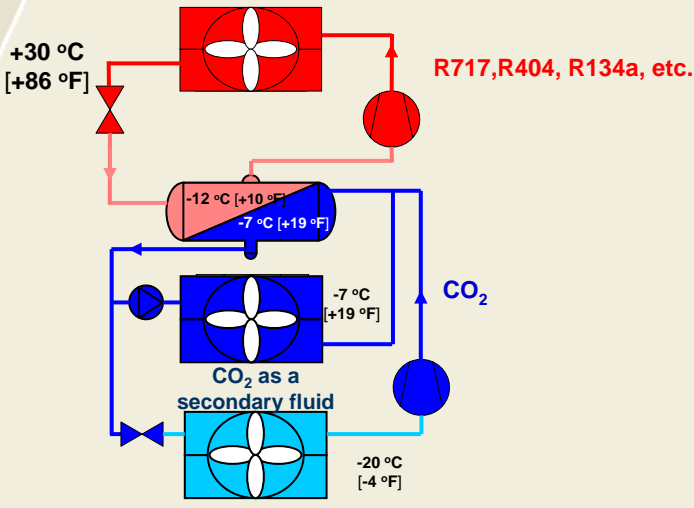
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**CO₂ Cascade System with Two
Temperature Levels (Used in
Supermarkets)**






R717, R404, R134a, etc.

CO₂

CO₂ as a
secondary fluid


DX CO₂ system

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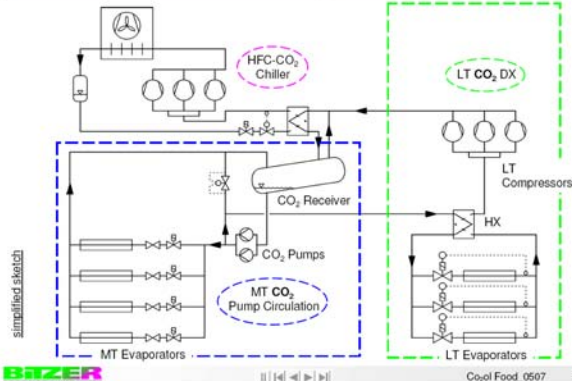
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DX-404A secondary fluid- CO₂ Cascade System




Example of a Supermarket Application – HFC-CO₂ Chiller / CO₂ Pump Circulation + Cascade







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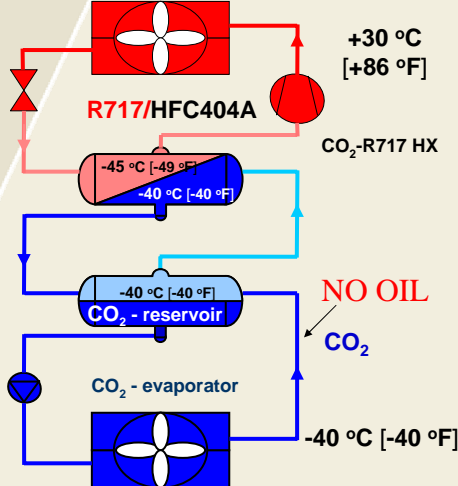


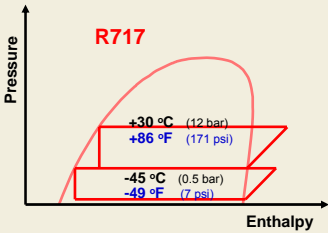
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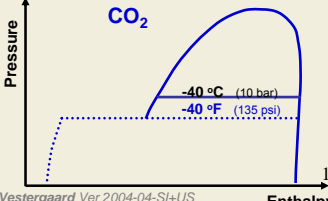


R717 or HFC-CO₂ as a Secondary Fluid












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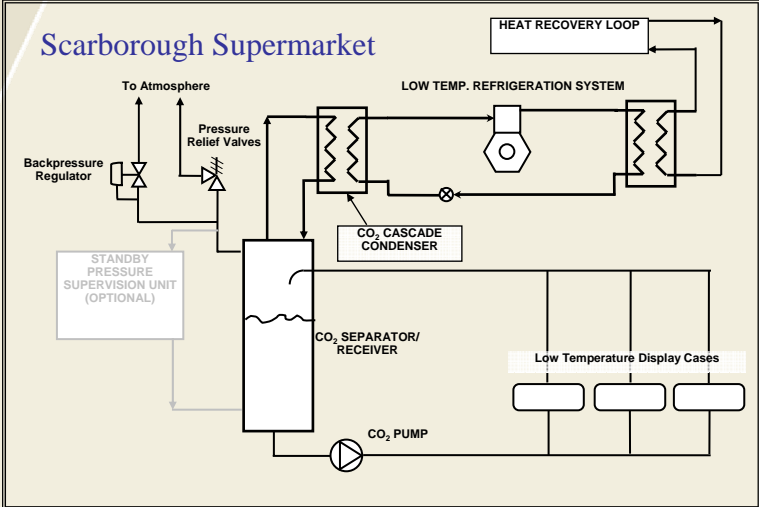
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CO₂ as a Secondary Fluid Only





Scarborough Supermarket






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Transcritical refrigeration cycles

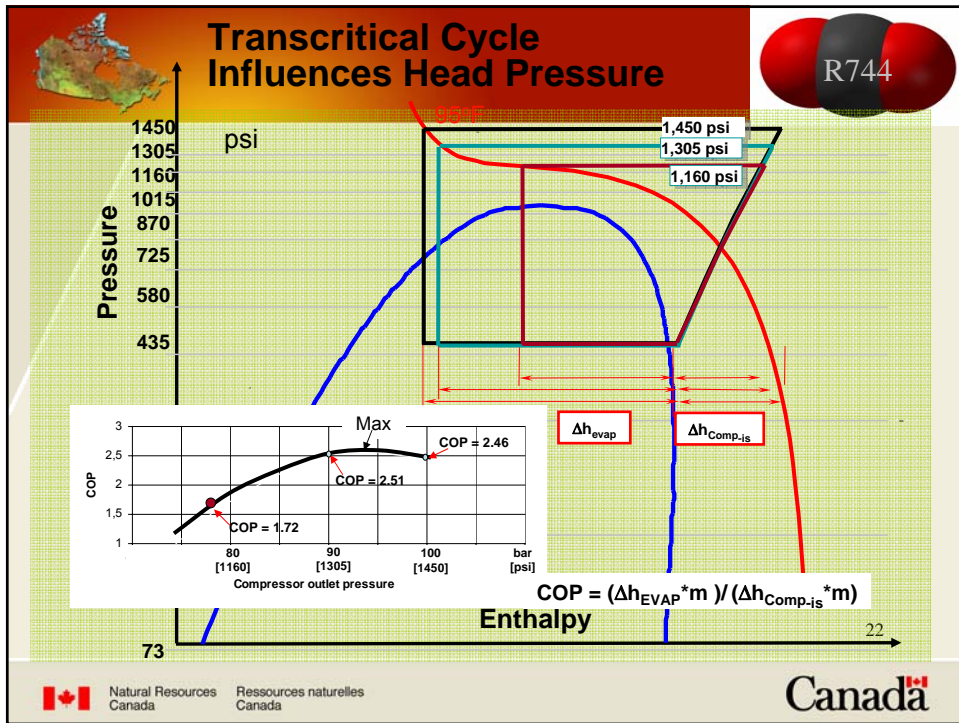
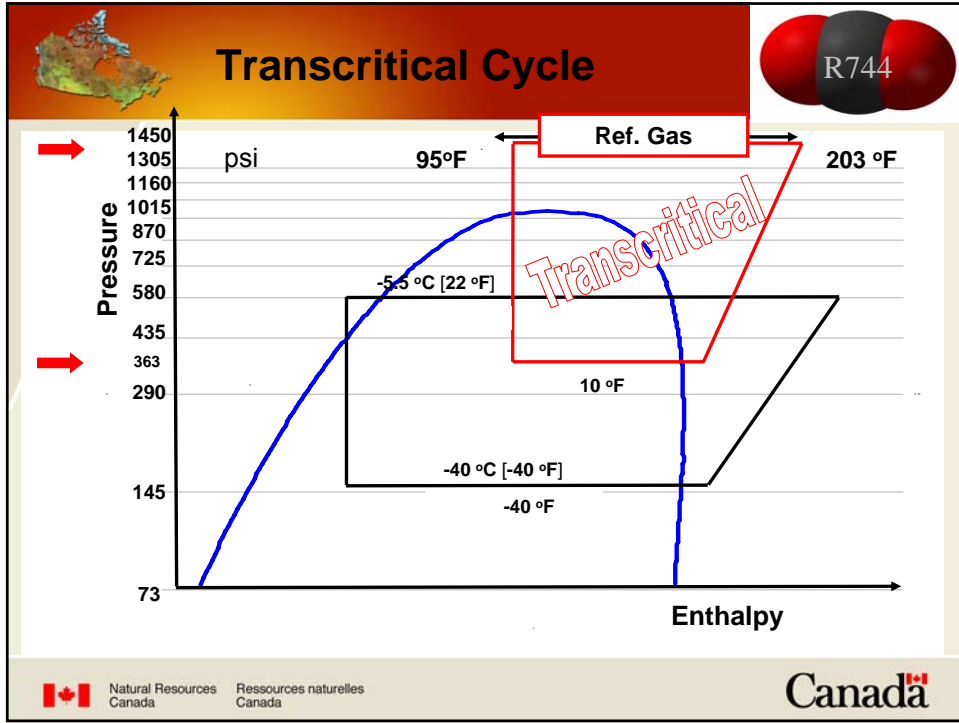



Transcritical refrigeration cycles




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CO₂ Transcritical Systems with Heat Recovery for Supermarkets



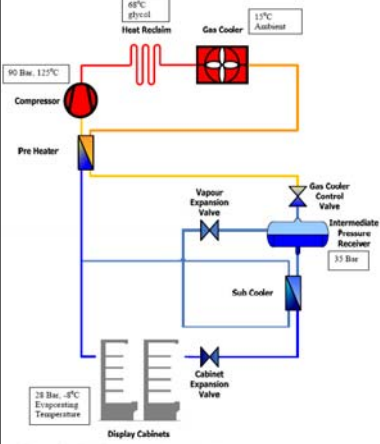


Figure 4. Simplified System Layout (Transcritical Mode)

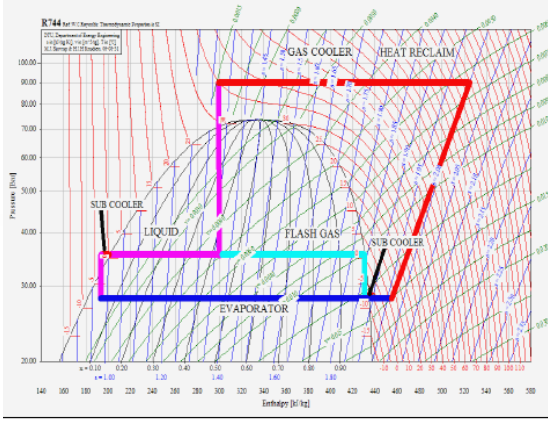





Figure 5. System Cycle Pressure Enthalpy Diagram

RAC Cooling with Carbon Dioxide Conference 28 March 2007, A. Butler M.Inst.R, Space Engineering Services, Causeway Central, Pioneer Park, Bristol, BS4 3QB




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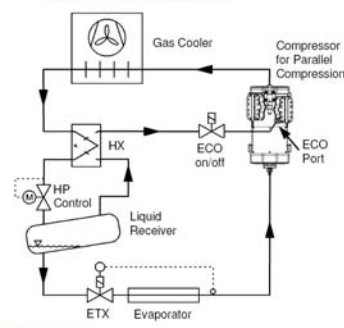


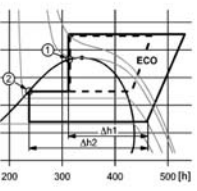


The Application of Parallel Compression




Economiser Circuit "ECO"







Potential for
COP increase by ~15%
@ $t_e -7^\circ\text{C} / t_{amb} 32^\circ\text{C}$



Coyol Food_0507 21



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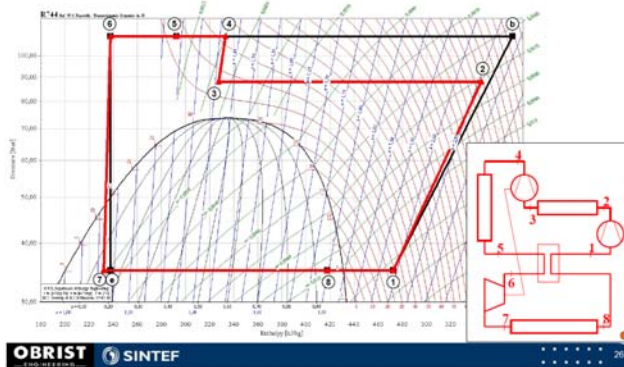




Another Transcritical Cycle



R744 Compressor Expander System



OBRIST SINTEF



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CO₂ Safety Measures

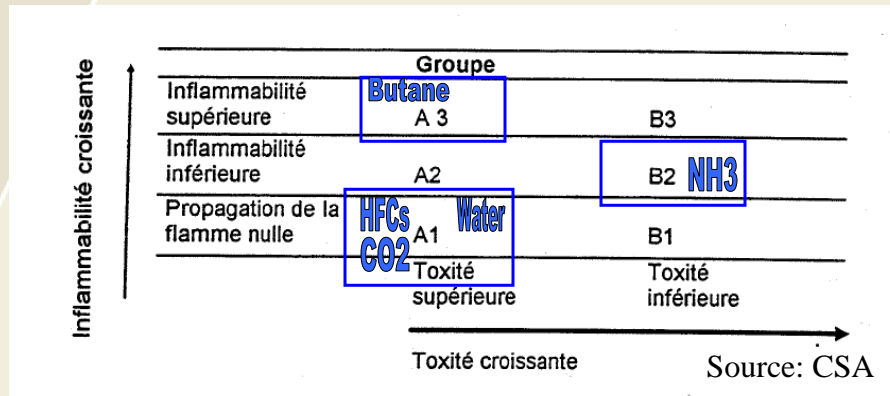


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Classification of CO₂ Refrigerant



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Health/Toxicity




- Air contains between 0.03% (**300 ppm**) and 0.06% (600 ppm) carbon dioxide depending on location. Carbon dioxide concentration increases by 2 ppm per year because of human activities.
- A person exhales about 4.5% (45,000 ppm) of carbon dioxide (in volume).
- The CSA B52 refrigeration code determines the maximum refrigerant concentration in percentage by volume so that people can leave the premises without immediate danger to life and health (IDLH). For carbon dioxide, this value is 5%, or **50,000 ppm** (5.7 lbs/1,000 cu. ft.) For example, a 50,000-square-foot supermarket that is 25 feet high can accept a quantity of $50,000 \times 25 \times 5.7 / 1,000 = 7.125$ pounds of carbon dioxide.
- For refrigeration engineers or people exposed to refrigerants for eight hours a day, the threshold limit value (TLV) they can withstand without adversely affecting their health is 0.5% or **5,000 ppm**.
- Regarding air quality, **1,000 ppm** causes discomfort in 20% of people. At **2,000 ppm**, discomfort is generalized and may cause headaches or nausea.
- Given that carbon dioxide is odourless, a detector should be installed in a ventilated mechanical room.

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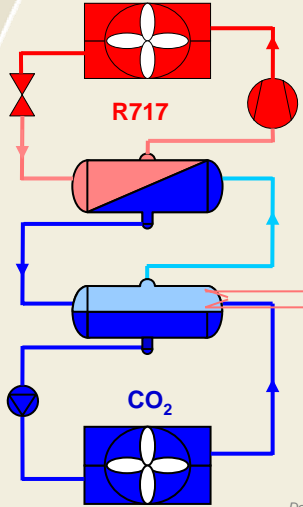
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Maintaining Shutdown Pressure





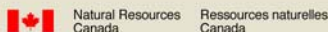

Pressure regulation unit



CO₂ pressure regulator that flushes out to atmosphere

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Applications: Products Available on the Market



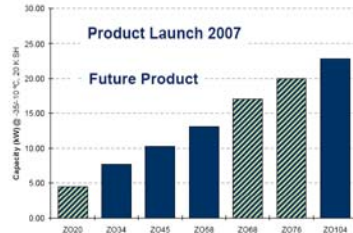





Copeland CO₂ Subcritical Scroll Product Overview & Outlook

| Model | Motor Size Hp | Cooling Capacity @ 100% ⁽¹⁾ kW | Displacement m ³ /h | Net Weight kg |
|------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ZO 34 KCE | 1.9 | 8 | 4.1 | 31 |
| ZO 45 KCE | 2.6 | 11 | 6.4 | 32 |
| ZO 56 KCE | 3.4 | 13 | 6.9 | 34 |
| ZO 104 KCE | 6.0 | 23 | 11.7 | 40 |

⁽¹⁾ Evaporating -30°C, Condensing -10°C, Suction Superheat 20 K, Subcooling 0K



Copeland

Cooling with Carbon Dioxide, 25 th March 2007, Page 6



Just like scroll

EMERSON
Climate Technologies

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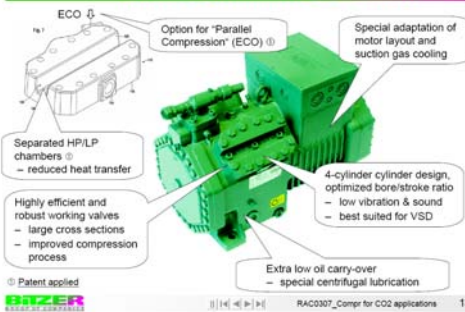
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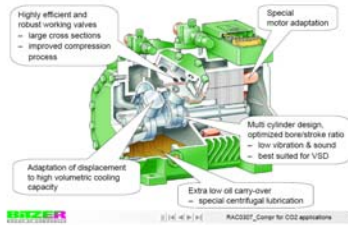
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CO₂ Compressors for Trans-critical Applications – Measures for Improved Performance & Efficiency



CO₂ Compressors for Sub-critical Applications – Measures for Improved Performance & Efficiency




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Eco-Cute CO₂ Water Heater

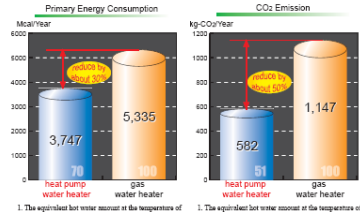




Prototype
(80 x 35 x 100cm,
Capacity: 4.5 kW)



CO₂ In
Motor
Compression Part
- IRON Scroll
- 3.3cc
CO₂ Out



Primary Energy Consumption
Mcal/year
heat pump: 3,747
gas: 5,335

CO₂ Emission
kg-CO₂/year
heat pump: 582
gas: 1,147

1. The equivalent hot water amount at the temperature of 43 °C on the L mode of R744 is used for the standard water heater test.
2. The ambient air temperature and the tap water temperature are based on 20.0/10.0/20.0°C.
3. The primary energy intensity for electricity is 2.3 Mcal/Wh (average), one for city gas is 11 Mcal/m³.
4. COP is assumed to be 3. Deductible and boiler cost loss.


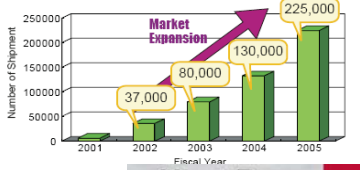



Figure 9: Photographs of various ECO-CUTEs.







Market Expansion
Number of Shipment
Fiscal Year
2001: 37,000
2002: 80,000
2003: 130,000
2004: 130,000
2005: 225,000

Five million of these will be installed in Japan by 2010.



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| | Winter (Dec.-Mar.) | Intermediary (Others) | Summer (Jun.-Sep.) | Yearly |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Ambient air temperature (°C) ^{*1} | 4.6 | 13.8 | 22.5 | - |
| Tap water temperature (°C) | 8.3 | 15.9 | 23.2 | - |
| Hot tap water temperature (°C) ^{*2} | 65 | 65 | 65 | - |
| Estimated system COP (-) ^{*3} | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.9 | - |
| Hot tap water demand (MJ) | 7369 | 5828 | 4291 | 17488 |
| Energy consumption (MJ) | 2378 | 1679 | 1115 | 5172 |
| Estimated yearly average COP | | | | 3.4 |

*1 Temperatures are the average for each season.
*2 Heating capacity / power input to inverter of compressor motor
*3 Heating capacity / power input to heat pump unit (including input to air fan and water pump)

Table 1: Estimation of yearly average COP of the final prototype for a family living in Tokyo



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Figure 3 – Carrier 60kW CO₂ Heat Pump installed on restaurant roof in Oregon

IEA Heat Pump CENTRE
NEWSLETTER
Volume 24
No. 3/2009



Nestlé



In 2000, no commercial freezers with scraped-surface CO₂ heat exchangers were available on the market. **In 2001, Nestlé installed the largest CO₂-NH₃ cascade system ever built in the past 50 years at the Nescafé plant in Hayes, UK.** Nestlé engineers and the R&D department, in collaboration with key suppliers such as Star Refrigeration (www.star-ref.co.uk), took on the challenge of the in-house development of a first CO₂ freezer to freeze coffee liqueur.







Figure 1: Heat pump prototype

WATER HEATER




Figure 4: Heat pump in commercial clothes dryer (front and back)


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CO₂ Horizontal Ground Loops



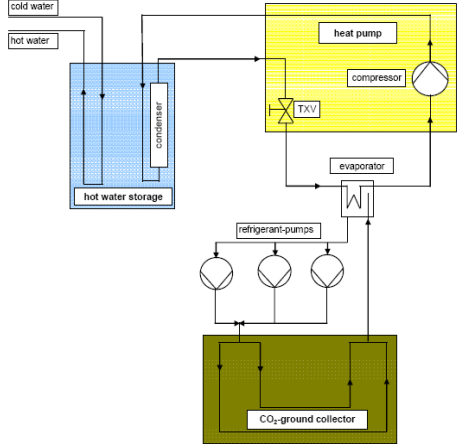
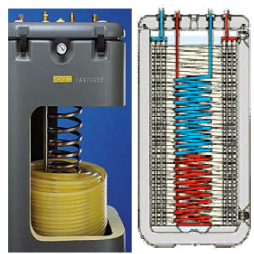
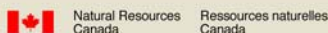



Figure 1. Scheme of the installed heat pump system (left), hot water storage (right)



© ROTEX




Target Applications



CO₂ COMPRESSOR

Embraco

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M&M REFRIGERATION

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CO₂ Commercial Refrigeration Equipment









Linde Kältetechnik GmbH & Co.-KG




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CO₂ as a Secondary Fluid







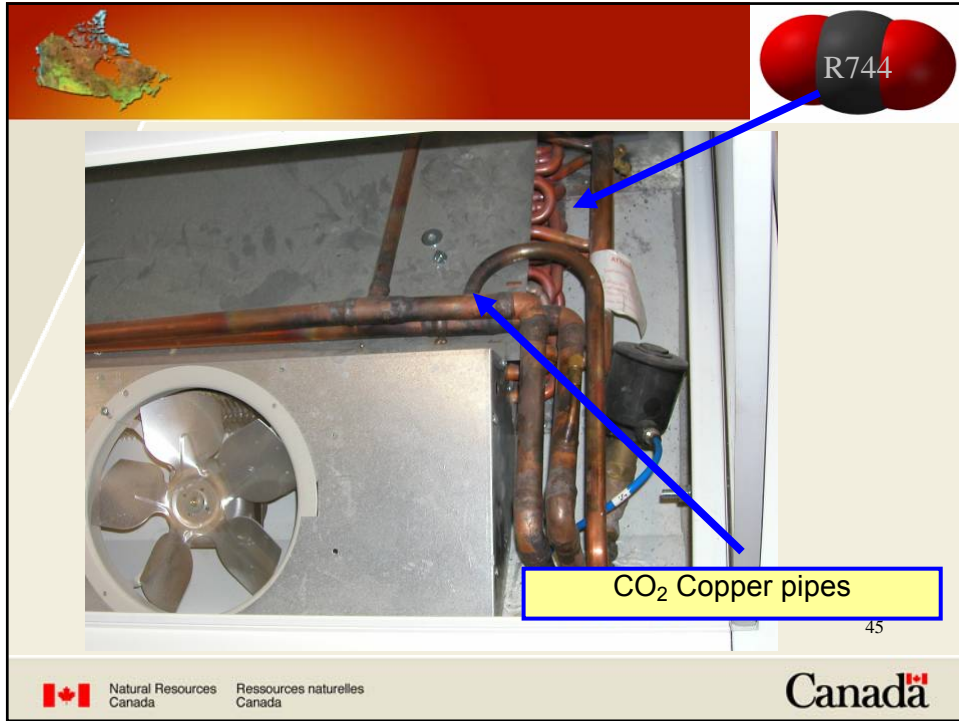





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Conclusions



- The development of products and applications that use CO₂ has accelerated in the last 10 years.
- These applications cover all sectors.
- Low-temperature refrigeration and heat pumps are especially promising .
- Operating pressures can be high, but the equipment is more compact and often more efficient.
- CO₂ is a natural refrigerant that is **safe** and inexpensive.

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Conclusions



- It is a refrigerant that can be used as an efficient and safe secondary fluid for cold applications.
- Subcritical equipment is available on the market at competitive prices.
- Transcritical equipment is being developed.
- Every refrigeration equipment manufacturer around the world is interested in CO₂ as a refrigerant.

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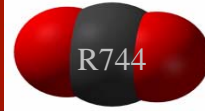


Why CO₂?



| Strong arguments | Commercial/ Supermarkets | Industrial refrigeration |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Environment Gradual elimination of substances that deplete the ozone layer, such as CFCs and HCFCs: <small>(ODP (Ozone Depletion Potential), GWP (Global Warming Potential))</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Safety Toxicity and inflammability for systems using large ammonia loads | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower operating costs because of • energy efficiency of compressors and • improved heat transfer • Lower refrigerant costs • Lower component volume | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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CO₂ is a **HOT refrigerant.**

Thank you.

Any questions?

c-dig, the carbon dioxide interest group

www.R744.com

<http://www.heatpumpcentre.org>



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