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Chapter 39

INDUSTRIAL AIR CONDITIONING

Atmospheric Conditions Required, General Requirements, Classification of Problems, Control of Regain, Moisture Content and Regain, Conditioning and Drying, Control of Rate of Chemical Reaction, Control of Rate of Biochemical Reactions, Control Rate of Crystallization, Elimination of Static Electricity

A COMPLETE knowledge of the problems involved is necessary before a satisfactory solution can be made of industrial air conditioning problems. Individual processes and machines are changing rapidly and air conditions must be constantly revised to meet the new conditions.

ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS REQUIRED

The most desirable relative humidity for processing depends upon the product and the nature of the process. As far as the behavior of the material and its desired final condition are concerned, each material and process presents a different problem. The desirable relative humidity may range from a low of 5 per cent, as in certain industrial applications, such as insulation winding processes, up to a condition approaching saturation, as in processes relating to textiles, tobacco and baking industries.

Similarly, the most favorable temperature will vary according to the specific material and particular process. Frequently a compromise between the known optimum condition for processing and that required for reasonable worker comfort is desirable. This is particularly true where unconfined processes are required in departments where people are working and their health, comfort and productive efficiency must be considered.

It is generally recognized that relative humidities of 50 per cent or less are on the dry side. Such conditions are conducive to low regains in hygroscopic materials, drying out, increased brittleness of fibrous materials, prevalence of increased static electricity and tendencies toward increased dust liberation from the product. Relative humidities higher than 50 per cent are considered to be on the damp side. These conditions are conducive to high regain, promote softness and pliability in materials, decrease static electricity and tendencies toward reduced generation of product dust which represents a loss in weight of the material in process.