Chapter 2

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Standard Abbreviations; Standard Symbols; Greek Alphabet; Conversion Equations; Graphical Symbols for Piping, Ductwork, Heating and Ventilating, Refrigerating; Identification of Piping by Color; Specific Heat Table

THIS chapter contains information regarding abbreviations, symbols, and conversion equations, which are of particular interest to the engineer engaged in heating, ventilating, and air conditioning.

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations are shortened forms of names and expressions employed in texts and tabulations and should not generally be used as symbols in equations. Most of the following abbreviations have been compiled from a list of approved standards [1]. In general the period has been omitted in all abbreviations except where the omission results in the formation of an English word. Additional abbreviations applying to individual chapters will be found at the end of Chapters 3, 4, 5, 7, 15, 16, 39, and 41.

Absolute	abs
Air horsepower	air hp
Alternating-current (as adjective)	a-c
Ampere	amp
Ampere-hour	amp-hr
Atmosphere	atm
Average	avg
Avoirdupois	avdp
Barometer	bar.
Boiling point	bp
Brake horsepower	bhp
Brake horsepower-hour	bhp-hr
British thermal unit	Btu
British thermal units per hour	Btuh
Calorie	cal
Centigram	cg
Centimeter	cm
Centimeter-gram-second (system)	cgs
Cubic	cu
Cubic centimeter	cu cm or cc
Cubic foot	cu ft
Cubic feet per minute	cfm
Cubic feet per second	cfs
Decibel	db
Degree [2]	deg or °
Degree, Centigrade	C
Degree, Fahrenheit	F
Degree, Kelvin	K
Degree, Réaumur	R
Diameter	diam

[1] Abbreviations for Scientific and Engineering Terms, Z10.1-1941 (*American Standards Association*).

[2] It is recommended that the abbreviation for the temperature scale, F, C, K, R, be included in expressions for numerical temperatures but, wherever feasible, the abbreviation for *degree* be omitted; as 68 F.

Direct-current (as adjective)	d-c
Electromotive Force	emf
Feet per minute	fpm
Feet per second	fps
Foot	ft
Foot-pound	ft-lb
Foot-pound-second (system)	fps
Freezing point	fp
Gallon	gal
Gallons per minute	gpm
Gallons per second	gps
Gram	g
Gram-calorie	g-cal
Horsepower	hp
Horsepower-hour	hp-hr
Hour	hr
Inch	in.
Inch-pound	in.-lb
Indicated horsepower	ihp
Indicated horsepower-hour	ihp-hr
Kilogram	kg
Kilowatt	kw
Kilowatthour	kwhr
Mass	mass
Melting point	mp
Meter	m
Micron	μ (mu)
Miles per hour	mph
Millimeter	mm
Minute	min
Molecular weight	mol. wt
Mol	mol
Ounce	oz
Pound	lb
Pounds per square inch	psi
Pounds per square inch, gage	psig
Pounds per square inch, absolute	psia
Revolutions per minute	rpm
Revolutions per second	rps
Second	sec
Specific gravity	sp gr
Specific heat	sp ht
Square foot	sq ft
Square inch	sq in.
Watt	w
Watthour	whr

SYMBOLS

A letter symbol is a single character, with subscript or superscript if required, used to designate a physical magnitude in mathematical equations and expressions. Two or more symbols together always represent a product. The following have been compiled from a selected list of approved standards [3]. Additional symbols and variations in the standard

[3] Letter Symbols for Mechanics of Solid Bodies, Z10.3-1942, and Letter Symbols for Heat and Thermodynamics, Z10.4-1943 (*American Standards Association*).