



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **NASRC AND DC ENGINEERING OFFER FIRST-EVER OPEN-SOURCE CO<sub>2</sub> INSTALLATION SPECIFICATION**

**SANTA CRUZ, CA** – Today is a milestone in the progression of natural refrigerants in the United States. For the first time ever there is now an open-source, comprehensive installation specification for transcritical CO<sub>2</sub> systems, complete with user guide.

The North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council worked with the refrigeration team at DC Engineering—an engineering and design firm based in Boise, Idaho—to source existing specifications from equipment manufacturers and end-users, compile them, work through the overlaps and discrepancies, and come up with a non-branded installation specification available for any end-user, contractor or other party that wants to use it.

“This really is a huge step forward for the use of CO<sub>2</sub> as a refrigerant,” says Tristam Coffin, director of sustainability and facilities for the Whole Foods Market Northern California region and an NASRC board member. “It’s not meant to replace the rack specification that comes from the equipment manufacturer, but rather is meant to be a tool to help end-users and contractors alike make smart decisions and have the kinds of conversations that lead to efficient and cost-effective installations. It also is a great resource for anyone who wants to learn about the installation of a transcritical system, especially the aspects that really warrant focused discussions between equipment owner, installing contractor, and rack manufacturer.”

NASRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to advancing natural refrigerants as a way of substantially reducing the environmental impact of refrigeration. The member-based organization takes action to further the uptake of natural refrigerants like CO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia and

hydrocarbons through its progress groups, each focused on certain challenges that slow the transition to natural refrigerants. The best practices progress group, led by Mr. Coffin, identified the need for a non-branded but complete CO<sub>2</sub> specification as one of its first goals.

As the group was figuring out how to source existing specs, and who could lead a process to create a neutral but comprehensive specification, NASRC member DC Engineering offered its services and expertise.

“We’ve designed enough stores with these [transcritical CO<sub>2</sub>] systems to know that there’s a real need for more guidance within the industry,” says Glenn Barrett of DC Engineering. “We were happy to help NASRC bring this project to fruition. Drafting specifications is part of what we do for our clients, and we think this non-branded spec can be a real asset to end-users.”

This installation specification provides technical instruction for installing a transcritical CO<sub>2</sub> system, but it is not specific to a certain CO<sub>2</sub> rack manufacturer. According to NASRC and DC Engineering, the idea is that the specification acts as general guidance and education, and in conjunction with the user guide, it can help identify aspects of installation that warrant in-depth conversations between the equipment owner, the rack manufacturer and the installing contractor. These are conversations that can happen early on in the planning process, even before equipment is purchased.

Bryan Beitler, VP of Engineering at Source Refrigeration and CEO of NASRC, knows first-hand how important clear communication is. Source has experience installing CO<sub>2</sub> systems, perhaps more than any other contractor in the U.S., but complications still arise, “Every project is different,” he says, “and I think NASRC’s CO<sub>2</sub> spec is a much-needed step toward identifying those differences up front, and making sure everyone involved in system start-up is on the same page.”

The installation specification and user guide are available now, for free on the [NASRC website](#). After one week, the spec and user guide will be moved to NASRC’s online resource library, which is available to all NASRC members. NASRC relies 100% on membership dues, which are tax-deductible donations. Information about annual membership is available at: <http://nasrc.org/become-a-member/>

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