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USACE / NAVFAC / AFCEC **UFGS-23 01 30.41 (May 2022)**

Preparing Activity: NAVFAC **Superseding**
UFGS-23 01 30.41 (February 2015)

UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

References are in Agreement with UMRL dated January 2026
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SECTION TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIVISION 23 - HEATING, VENTILATING, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)

SECTION 23 01 30.41

HVAC SYSTEM CLEANING

05/22

PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 REFERENCES
1.2 DEFINITIONS
1.2.1 NADCA Standards
1.3 SUBMITTALS
1.4 QUALITY CONTROL
1.4.1 NADCA Firm
1.4.2 Experience
1.4.3 Equipment, Materials and Labor
1.4.4 Licensing
1.4.5 Health And Safety
1.4.5.1 Safety Standards
1.4.5.2 Occupant Safety
1.4.5.3 Disposal of Debris
1.5 PROJECT/SITE CONDITIONS
1.5.1 Mechanical Drawings
1.5.2 Site Conditions

PART 2 PRODUCTS

PART 3 EXECUTION

3.1 PREPARATION
3.1.1 HVAC System Inspections And Site Preparations
3.1.1.1 HVAC System Evaluation
3.1.1.2 Site Evaluation and Preparations
3.2 APPLICATION
3.2.1 General HVAC System Cleaning Requirements
3.2.1.1 Containment
3.2.1.2 Particulate Collection
3.2.1.3 Controlling Odors
3.2.1.4 Component Cleaning

3.2.1.5 Air-Volume Control Devices
3.2.1.6 Service Openings
3.2.1.7 Ceiling Sections (Tile)
3.2.1.8 Air Distribution Devices (Registers, Grilles and Diffusers)
3.2.1.9 Air Handling Units, Terminal Units, Blowers and Exhaust Fans
3.2.1.10 Duct Systems
3.2.2 Mechanical Cleaning Methodology
3.2.2.1 Source Removal Cleaning Methods
3.2.2.2 Methods of Cleaning Fibrous Glass Insulated Components
3.2.2.3 Damaged Fibrous Glass Material
3.2.2.4 Replacement Material
3.2.2.5 Cleaning of Coils
3.2.2.6 Antimicrobial Agents and Coatings
3.3 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL
3.3.1 CLEANLINESS VERIFICATION
3.3.1.1 General
3.3.1.2 Visual Inspection
3.3.1.3 Gravimetric Analysis
3.3.1.4 Verification of Coil Cleaning
3.3.2 Post-Project Report

-- End of Section Table of Contents --

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SECTION 23 01 30.41

HVAC SYSTEM CLEANING
05/22

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NOTE: This guide specification covers the requirements for cleaning of HVAC systems, including applicable industry standards, qualifications of cleaning contractor, cleaning methodology, and performance verification.

Adhere to UFC 1-300-02 Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) Format Standard when editing this guide specification or preparing new project specification sections. Edit this guide specification for project specific requirements by adding, deleting, or revising text. For bracketed items, choose applicable item(s) or insert appropriate information.

Remove information and requirements not required in respective project, whether or not brackets are present.

Comments, suggestions and recommended changes for this guide specification are welcome and should be submitted as a Criteria Change Request (CCR).

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PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 REFERENCES

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NOTE: This paragraph is used to list the publications cited in the text of the guide specification. The publications are referred to in the text by basic designation only and listed in this paragraph by organization, designation, date, and title.

Use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature when you add a Reference Identifier (RID) outside of the Section's Reference Article to automatically

place the reference in the Reference Article. Also use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature to update the issue dates.

References not used in the text will automatically be deleted from this section of the project specification when you choose to reconcile references in the publish print process.

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The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to within the text by the basic designation only.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS (ASHRAE)

ASHRAE 62.1	(2016) Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality

INSTITUTE OF INSPECTION, CLEANING, AND RESTORATION CERTIFICATION (IICRC)

ANSI/IICRC S520	(2015) Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation

NATIONAL AIR DUCT CLEANERS ASSOCIATION (NADCA)

NADCA	(2005) Introduction to HVAC System Cleaning Services
NADCA ACR	(2021) Standard for Assessment, Cleaning, and Restoration of HVAC Systems
NADCA ASCS	(2013) Air Systems Cleaning Specialist to the NADCA Standard ACR
NADCA HVAC Inspection Manual	(2021) Procedures for Assessing the Cleanliness of Commercial HVAC Systems

NORTH AMERICAN INSULATION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (NAIMA)

NAIMA AH112	(1993) Cleaning Fibrous Glass or Lined Sheet Metal Ducts
NAIMA AH122	(2006) Cleaning Fibrous Insulated Duct Systems - Recommended Practices
NAIMA AH127	(1999) Facts About the Impact of Duct Cleaning on Internal Duct Insulation

SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (SMACNA)

SMACNA 1966	(2020) HVAC Duct Construction Standards Metal and Flexible, 4th Edition

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

EM 385-1-1	(2024) Safety -- Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Requirements

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA 402-C-01-001	(2001) IAQ Building Education and Assessment Tool (I-BEAM)
EPA 402-F-91-102	(1991) Building Air Quality: A Guide for Building Owners and Facility Managers

UL SOLUTIONS (UL)

UL 181	(2013; Reprint Dec 2021) UL Standard for Safety Factory-Made Air Ducts and Air Connectors
UL 181A	(2013; Reprint Dec 2021) Standard for Safety Closure Systems for Use with Rigid Air Ducts
UL 181B	(2013; Reprint Dec 2021) UL Standard for Safety Closure Systems for Use with Flexible Air Ducts and Air Connectors

1.2 DEFINITIONS

1.2.1 NADCA Standards

Perform the services specified here in accordance with the current published standards of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA, NADCA ASCS,NADCA ACR and NADCA HVAC Inspection Manual).

a. All terms in this specification are defined as stated in the NADCA Standards.

b. Follow NADCA Standards without modification or deviation.

1.3 SUBMITTALS

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NOTE: Review Submittal Description (SD) definitions in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES and edit the following list, and corresponding submittal items in the text, to reflect only the submittals required for the project. The Guide Specification technical editors have classified those items that require Government approval, due to their complexity or criticality, with a "G". Generally, other submittal items can be reviewed by the Contractor's Quality Control System. Only add a "G" to an item if the submittal is sufficiently important or complex in context of the project.

For Army projects, fill in the empty brackets following the "G" classification, with a code of up to three characters to indicate the approving

authority. Codes for Army projects using the Resident Management System (RMS) are: "AE" for Architect-Engineer; "DO" for District Office (Engineering Division or other organization in the District Office); "AO" for Area Office; "RO" for Resident Office; and "PO" for Project Office. Codes following the "G" typically are not used for Navy and Air Force projects.

The "S" classification indicates submittals required as proof of compliance for sustainability Guiding Principles Validation or Third Party Certification and as described in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES.

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Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" or "S" classification. Submittals not having a "G" or "S" classification are for Contractor Quality Control approval. Submittals not having a "G" or "S" classification are for information only. When used, a code following the "G" classification identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government. Submit the following in accordance with Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

SD-01 Preconstruction Submittals

Record of Existing Conditions[; G, [_____]]

Coordination Plan[; G, [_____]]

NADCA Firm[; G, [_____]]

NADCA Team Assistants[; G, [_____]]

NADCA Air System Cleaning Specialist (ASCS)[; G, [_____]]

NADCA Supervisor Qualifications[; G, [_____]]

Records of Experience in the Field of HVAC System Cleaning[; G, [_____]]

NADCA Work Execution Schedule[; G, [_____]]

SD-03 Product Data

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)[; G, [_____]]

SD-06 Test Reports

Testing Procedures Summary[; G, [_____]]

[Gravimetric Analysis[; G, [_____]]

] Post-Project Report[; G, [_____]]

1.4 QUALITY CONTROL

1.4.1 NADCA Firm

Submit information certifying that the NADCA firm is a first tier subcontractor who is not affiliated with any other company participating in work on this contract, including furnishing equipment. Further, submit the following, for the firm, to Contracting Officer for approval:

a. Independent NADCA firm:

NADCA Firm: NADCA registration number and expiration date of current certification;

NADCA Supervisor Qualifications: Name and copy of NADCA supervisor certificate and expiration date of current certification.

NADCA Air System Cleaning Specialist (ASCS): Name and documented evidence that the team field leader has satisfactorily performed full-time supervision of HVAC cleaning work in the field for not less than three years immediately preceding this contract's bid opening date.

NADCA Team Assistants: Names and documented evidence that each field technician has satisfactorily assisted a NADCA team field leader in performance of HVAC cleaning work in the field for not less than one year immediately preceding this contract's bid opening date.

Current Certificates: Ensure registrations and certifications are current, and valid for the duration of this contract. Renew Certifications which expire prior to completion of the HVAC cleaning work, in a timely manner so that there is no lapse in registration or certification. NADCA agency or NADCA team personnel without a current registration or current certification are not to perform HVAC cleaning work on this contract.

b. TAB Team Members: NADCA team approved to accomplish work on this contract are full-time employees of the NADCA firm. No other personnel is allowed to do HVAC cleaning work on this contract.

c. Replacement of NADCA Team Members: Replacement of members may occur if each new member complies with the applicable personnel qualifications and each is approved by the Contracting Officer.

1.4.2 Experience

Submit records of experience in the field of HVAC system cleaning. Bids will only be considered from firms which are regularly engaged in HVAC system maintenance with an emphasis on HVAC system cleaning and decontamination.

1.4.3 Equipment, Materials and Labor

Possess and furnish all necessary equipment, materials and labor to adequately perform the specified services and comply with the applicable provisions of NADCA General Specifications for the Cleaning of Commercial HVAC Systems and ASHRAE 62.1.

a. Assure that all employees have received safety equipment training,

medical surveillance programs, individual health protection measures, and manufacturer's product and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) as required for the work by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and as described by this specification. For work performed in countries outside of the U.S.A., comply with applicable national safety codes and standards.

b. Maintain a copy of all current SDS documentation and safety certifications at the site at all times, as well as comply with all other site documentation requirements of applicable OSHA programs and this specification.

c. Submit all Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemical products proposed used in the cleaning process, including all VOC ratings.

[1.4.4 Licensing

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NOTE: If specific state or territorial licensing requirements are specified in Division 00, delete the following paragraph.
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Provide proof of maintaining the proper license(s), if any, as required to do work in [_____] [the state of [_____]]. Comply with all Federal, State and local rules, regulations, and licensing requirements.

]1.4.5 Health And Safety

1.4.5.1 Safety Standards

Comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local requirements for protecting the safety of the contractors' employees, building occupants, and the environment. In particular, follow all applicable standards of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) when working in accordance with this specification[, and EM 385-1-1].

1.4.5.2 Occupant Safety

Employ no processes or materials in such a manner that introduce additional hazards into occupied spaces.

1.4.5.3 Disposal of Debris

Dispose of all debris removed from the HVAC System in accordance with applicable Federal, State and local requirements.

1.5 PROJECT/SITE CONDITIONS

1.5.1 Mechanical Drawings

Obtain one copy of the following documents:

a. Project drawings and specifications

b. Approved construction revisions pertaining to the HVAC system

c. Any existing indoor air quality (IAQ) assessments or environmental reports prepared for the facility.

Submit a NADCA Work Execution Schedule to the Contracting Officer within [10] [_____] working days of the contract award.

1.5.2 Site Conditions

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Note: Modify the following paragraph to succinctly and specifically define those systems and components requiring cleaning.
****

The HVAC system includes any interior surface of the facility's air distribution system for conditioned spaces and/or occupied zones. This includes the entire heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system from the points where the air enters the system to the points where the air is discharged from the system. The return air grilles, return air ducts (except ceiling plenums and mechanical room) to the air handling unit (AHU), the interior surfaces of the AHU, mixing box, coil compartment, condensate drain pans, humidifiers and dehumidifiers, supply air ducts, fans, fan housing, fan blades, air wash systems, spray eliminators, turning vanes, filters, filter housings, reheat coils, and supply diffusers are all considered part of the HVAC system. The HVAC system may also include other components such as dedicated exhaust and ventilation components and make-up air systems.

PART 2 PRODUCTS

Not used.

PART 3 EXECUTION

Perform the services specified here in accordance with the current published standards of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA, NADCA ASCS,NADCA ACR and NADCA HVAC Inspection Manual).

a. All terms in this specification have their meaning defined as stated in the NADCA Standards.

b. Follow NADCA Standards with no modifications or deviations being allowed. Remove visible surface contaminants and deposits from within the HVAC system in strict accordance with these specifications.

3.1 PREPARATION

3.1.1 HVAC System Inspections And Site Preparations

3.1.1.1 HVAC System Evaluation

Prior to the commencement of any cleaning work, perform a visual inspection of the HVAC system in the presence of the Contracting Officer to determine appropriate methods, tools, and equipment required to satisfactorily complete this project. Cleanliness inspection should include air handling units and representative areas of HVAC system components and ductwork. In HVAC systems that include multiple air handling units, a representative sample of units should be inspected. Notify the Contracting Officer [_____] [10] days prior to the planned inspection. As part of evaluation, record photographs and videos of each inspection location to document the "as found" condition prior to cleaning.

Document damaged system components found during the inspection and submit to the Contracting Officer, clearly labeled "Record of Existing Conditions."

3.1.1.2 Site Evaluation and Preparations

Conduct without negatively impacting indoor environment through excessive disruption of settled dust, microbial amplification or other debris. In cases where contamination is suspected, and/or in sensitive environments where even small amounts of contaminant may be of concern, implement environmental engineering control measures.

Conduct a site evaluation, and establish a specific, coordination plan which details how each area of the building is protected during the various phases of the project.

3.2 APPLICATION

3.2.1 General HVAC System Cleaning Requirements

3.2.1.1 Containment

Collect debris removed during cleaning and take precautions to ensure that debris is not otherwise dispersed outside the HVAC system during the cleaning process.

3.2.1.2 Particulate Collection

Where the Particulate Collection Equipment (PCE) is exhausting inside the building, use HEPA filtration with 99.97 percent collection efficiency for 0.3-micron size (or greater). When the PCE is exhausting outside the building, undertake mechanical cleaning operations only with PCE, including adequate filtration to contain debris removed from the HVAC system. When the PCE is exhausting outside the building, take precautions to locate the equipment down wind and away from all air intakes and other points of entry into the building.

3.2.1.3 Controlling Odors

Take all reasonable measures to control offensive odors and/or mist vapors during the cleaning process.

3.2.1.4 Component Cleaning

Employ cleaning methods such that all HVAC system components are Visibly Clean as defined in applicable standards. Upon completion, return all components to those settings recorded just prior to cleaning operations.

3.2.1.5 Air-Volume Control Devices

Mark the position of dampers and any air-directional mechanical devices inside the HVAC system prior to cleaning and, upon completion, restore to their marked position.

3.2.1.6 Service Openings

Utilize service openings, as required for proper cleaning, at various points of the HVAC system for physical and mechanical entry, and inspection. Utilize the existing service openings already installed in

the HVAC system where possible.

Create other openings where needed, created and resealed in conformance with NADCA Standard 05. Place closures so they do not significantly hinder, restrict, alter the air-flow within the system, or compromise the structural integrity of the system. Properly insulate closures to prevent heat loss/gain or condensation on surfaces within the system. Conform construction techniques used in the creation of openings to requirements of applicable building and fire codes, and applicable NFPA, SMACNA and NADCA Standards. Cutting service openings into flexible duct is not permitted. Disconnect flexible duct at the ends as needed for proper cleaning and inspection.

Reseal rigid fiber glass ductboard duct systems in accordance with NAIMA recommended practices; NAIMA AH112, NAIMA AH122, and NAIMA AH127. Only closure techniques which comply with UL 181, UL 181A, or UL 181B are suitable for fiber glass duct system closures.

Provide access doors for openings that need to be re-opened for future inspection or remediation. Refer to Section 23 30 00 HVAC AIR DISTRIBUTION for access doors. Clearly mark all service openings, capable of being re-opened for future inspection or remediation, and report their location in project report documents.

3.2.1.7 Ceiling Sections (Tile)

Carefully remove and reinstall ceiling sections to gain access to HVAC systems during the cleaning process. Replace any damaged ceiling sections caused by the removal at no cost to the Government.

3.2.1.8 Air Distribution Devices (Registers, Grilles and Diffusers)

Clean all air distribution devices.

3.2.1.9 Air Handling Units, Terminal Units, Blowers and Exhaust Fans

Ensure that supply, return, and exhaust fans and blowers are thoroughly cleaned. Areas for cleaning include blowers, fan housings, plenums (except ceiling supply and return plenums), scrolls, blades, or vanes, shafts, baffles, dampers and drive assemblies. Remove all visible surface contamination deposits in accordance with NADCA Standards.

a. Clean all air handling unit (AHU) internal surfaces, components and condensate collectors and drains.

b. Assure that a suitable operative drainage system is in place prior to beginning wash down procedures.

c. Clean all coils and related components, including evaporator fins.

3.2.1.10 Duct Systems

a. Create service openings in the system as necessary in order to accommodate cleaning of otherwise inaccessible areas.

b. Mechanically clean all duct systems to remove all visible contaminants, such that the systems are capable of passing NADCA Cleaning Verification Testings Standards.

c. Any exposed edges in internal duct lining within duct, including but not limited to interfaces with externally insulated duct, must be fully protected, sealed and encapsulated to prevent future erosion.

3.2.2 Mechanical Cleaning Methodology

3.2.2.1 Source Removal Cleaning Methods

Clean the HVAC system using Source Removal mechanical cleaning methods designed to extract contaminants from within the HVAC system and safely remove contaminants from the facility. Select Source Removal methods which will render the HVAC System Visibly Clean and capable of passing NADCA cleaning verification methods Standards and other specified standards and tests, in accordance with all general requirements. Use no cleaning method, or combination of methods, which could potentially damage components of the HVAC system or negatively alter the integrity of the system.

Incorporate the use of vacuum collection devices that are operated continuously during cleaning for all methods used. Connect a vacuum device to the downstream end of the section being cleaned through a predetermined opening. Use a vacuum collection device of sufficient power to render all areas being cleaned under negative pressure, such that containment of debris and the protection of the indoor environment is assured.

Equip all vacuum devices exhausting air inside the building, including hand-held vacuums and wet-vacuums, with HEPA filters (minimum efficiency).

Equip all vacuum devices exhausting air outside the facility with Particulate Collection including adequate filtration to contain Debris removed from the HVAC system, in a manner that does not allow contaminants to re-enter the facility. Release of debris outdoors which violates any outdoor environmental standards, codes or regulations is not allowed.

All methods require mechanical agitation devices to dislodge debris adhered to interior HVAC system surfaces, such that debris may be safely conveyed to vacuum collection devices. Acceptable methods include those which will not potentially damage the integrity of the ductwork, nor damage porous surface materials such as liners inside the ductwork or system components.

3.2.2.2 Methods of Cleaning Fibrous Glass Insulated Components

Thoroughly clean glass [thermal] [acoustical] insulation elements present in any equipment or ductwork with HEPA vacuuming equipment. Clean while the HVAC system is under constant negative pressure, and not permitted to get wet in accordance with applicable NADCA and NAIMA standards and recommendations.

Do not use cleaning methods that cause damage to fibrous glass components or renders the system capable of passing Cleaning Verification Tests NADCA Standards.

Provide surface treatment for insulation for sections of internally-lined duct. Select and apply encapsulants, coatings, and insulation repair products to completely restore surface integrity of fibrous glass surfaces in accordance with applicable standards and manufacturer's installation instructions.

3.2.2.3 Damaged Fibrous Glass Material

If there is any evidence of damage, deterioration, delamination, friable material, mold or fungus growth, or moisture such that fibrous glass materials cannot be restored by cleaning or resurfacing with an acceptable insulation repair coating, identify them to the Contracting Officer for replacement.

When requested or specified, remediate exposed damaged insulation in air handlers and/or ductwork requiring replacement.

If insulation is damaged as a result of this work under this specification, notify Contracting Officer and initiate a meeting with same to determine options for repair or replacement of insulation.

3.2.2.4 Replacement Material

If replacement of fiber glass materials is required, conform all materials to applicable industry codes and standards, including those of UL and SMACNA 1966.

Replacement of damaged insulation is **not** covered by this specification. Refer to Section 23 07 00 THERMAL INSULATION FOR MECHANICAL SYSTEMS.

3.2.2.5 Cleaning of Coils

Use any cleaning method which renders the coil visibly clean and capable of passing NADCA Coil Cleaning Verification Standards. Coil drain pans are subject to Non-Porous Surfaces Cleaning Verification. Maintain operability of the drain for the condensate at all times. Do not damage, displace, inhibit heat transfer, or cause erosion of the coil surface or fins, and conform to coil manufacturer recommendations when available. Thoroughly rinse coils with clean water to remove any latent residues.

3.2.2.6 Antimicrobial Agents and Coatings

Perform application of antimicrobial agents used to control the growth of fungal or bacteriological contaminants after the removal of surface deposits and debris. Perform mold remediation in accordance with ANSI/IICRC S520.

Use only antimicrobial agents registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 402-F-91-102) (EPA 402-C-01-001) specifically for use within HVAC system.

Apply antimicrobial agents in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Use only antimicrobial coating products, for both porous and non-porous surfaces, which are EPA registered, water soluble solutions with supporting efficacy data and SDS records.

Apply antimicrobial coatings according to manufacturer's instructions. Spray coatings directly onto interior ductwork surfaces, rather than "fog" downstream onto surfaces. Achieve a continuous film on the surface treated by the coating application, and apply in strict accordance with manufacturer's minimum millage surface application rate standards for effectiveness.

3.3 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

3.3.1 CLEANLINESS VERIFICATION

3.3.1.1 General

Verification of HVAC System cleanliness is determined after mechanical cleaning and before the application of any treatment or introduction of any treatment-related substance to the HVAC system, including antimicrobial agents and coatings.

3.3.1.2 Visual Inspection

Visually inspect the HVAC system to ensure that no visible contaminants are present.

If no contaminants are evident through visual inspection, consider the HVAC system clean; however, further verification of the system cleanliness through gravimetric or wipe testing analysis testing may be requested at the discretion of the Contracting Officer.

If visible contaminants are evident through visual inspection, re-clean those portions of the system where contaminants are visible, and subject to re-inspection for cleanliness.

As part of inspection, record photographs and videos of inspection locations to document post-cleaning condition.

[3.3.1.3 Gravimetric Analysis

At the expense of the **Contractor**, test sections of the HVAC system for cleanliness using the NADCA Vacuum Test (gravimetric analysis) as specified in applicable NADCA Standards. Ensure levels of debris collected are equal to or less than acceptable levels defined in applicable NADCA Standards.

If gravimetric analysis determines that levels of debris are equal to or lower than those levels specified, the system is considered clean and to have passed cleanliness verification.

If gravimetric analysis determines that levels of debris exceed those specified in applicable NADCA standards, the system will not be considered clean, and re-cleaning of those sections of the system which failed cleanliness verification will be required at the expense of the HVAC system cleaning contractor.

Perform cleanliness verification immediately after mechanical cleaning and before the HVAC system is restored to normal operation.

]3.3.1.4 Verification of Coil Cleaning

Cleaning is to restore the coil pressure drop to within 10 percent of the pressure drop measured when the coil was first installed. If the original pressure drop is not known, the coil will be considered clean only if the coil is free of foreign matter and chemical residue, based on a thorough visual inspection (see NADCA HVAC Inspection Manual Standards).

3.3.2 Post-Project Report

At the conclusion of the project, provide a Testing Procedures Summary and Post-Project Report indicating the following:

a. Success of the cleaning project, as verified through visual inspection [and][or] gravimetric analysis.

b. Areas of the system found to be damaged and/or in need of repair.

-- End of Section --