

Protecting Healthcare Workers from Hazardous Drugs: *Are you USP 800 Compliant?*

U.S. Pharmacopeial (USP) 800 “Hazardous Drugs – Handling in Healthcare Settings” provides standards for safe handling of hazardous drugs to minimize the risk of exposure to healthcare personnel, patients, and the environment. Only three months remain before the new USP 800 requirements become enforceable. To comply, facilities may be required to make extensive changes to areas where they compound hazardous drugs, including adding a dedicated exhaust, increasing emergency power, separating/relocating rooms, increasing air exchanges, and upgrading equipment. If you have not started to address the changes by now, you may want to identify temporary solutions and an expedited design-build delivery plan.



*Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital,
Pharmacy Renovation*

Increased Use of Chill Beams in Higher Education and Healthcare Facilities



*University of North Texas Health Science Center,
Interdisciplinary Research and Education
Building*

The utilization of chilled beams in place of traditional variable air volume (VAV) for heating, ventilating and air-conditioning in higher education and healthcare facilities has become increasingly popular in recent years. Chilled beams have higher upfront cost versus a traditional VAV. However, chilled beams have lower building life cycle cost, reduce the size of air handler units, ductwork sizing, and heavy reliance on reheating. Chilled beams provide an almost noiseless operation, with better acoustical properties. In addition, chilled beams have a lower air velocity, offering increased comfort to building occupants. You may want to discuss the pros and cons of chilled beam construction on your next hospital or research facility.

Tariffs Update! Keep Calm, Build On

Although we are seeing conflicting information on the effects of the tariffs on imported materials and Texas’s Buy American Act, raw material prices and lead times are back to pre-tariff levels. Cost estimators should continue to verify material pricing and escalation during their budget updates.

One of the misconceptions regarding the Buy American Law is its supposed regulation over steel products. This law only regulates steel products permanently incorporated into the structure of the building. It does not apply to the steel used in mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment. To avoid unneeded added cost, have your contractor check the specifications to verify they are interpreting this regulation properly.



*University of Texas Rio Grande Valley,
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