

F24F

AIR-CONDITIONING, AIR-HUMIDIFICATION, VENTILATION, USE OF AIR CURRENTS FOR SCREENING (devices for ventilating greenhouses [A01G](#) [N: [F24F9/24](#); air-conditioning systems for greenhouses [A01G 9/246](#)]; animal husbandry [A01K](#), e.g. controlling humidity in incubators [A01K 41/04](#); disinfecting or sterilising of air [A61L](#); devices for reconditioning breathing air in sealed rooms or for ventilating gas-proof shelters [A62B](#); filtering, washing or drying of gases [B01D](#); mixing gases with vapours or liquids in general [B01F 3/00](#); spraying [B05B](#), [B05D](#); removing dirt or fumes from areas where they are produced [B08B 15/00](#); ventilation, air-conditioning or cooling, specially adapted for vehicles, see the relevant vehicle places, e.g. [B60H](#), [B61D 27/00](#), [N: [B64D 13/00](#)]; production of ozone [C01B 13/10](#); chimneys or flues [E04F 17/02](#), [E04H 12/28](#), [F23J 11/00](#), [F23L 17/02](#); air ducts or conduits [E04F 17/04](#), [F16L](#); ventilation in doors or windows [E06B 7/02](#); fans, blowers F04; noise-absorbing in pipes or pipe systems [F16L](#); tops for chimneys and ventilating shafts [F23L](#); cooling F25; details of heat-exchange or heat-transfer apparatus, of general application [F28F](#); apparatus for generating ions to be introduced into non-enclosed gases, e.g. the atmosphere [H01T 23/00](#))

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Devices, systems and methods for changing the air characteristics within a room, a building or spaces, comprising air treatment like air-conditioning, air-humidification, dehumidification of room air, cleaning e.g. filtering of room air, ventilation, use of air currents for screening.

Air treatment to improve the air properties of breathing air for human beings in the room or building.

Relationship between large subject matter areas

Subclass [F24F](#) covers arrangement of cooling and heating. The relative arrangement of merely heating is covered by [F24D](#) and [F24H](#).

Subclass [F24F](#) covers air-conditioning units characterised by the treatment of air. Air-conditioning units characterised by the refrigerant machines or systems per se are covered by [F25B](#).

References relevant to classification in this subclass

This subclass/group does not cover:

Devices for ventilating greenhouses	A01G
Animal husbandry	A01K
Disinfecting or sterilising or air	A61L
Filtering, washing or drying of gases	B01D
Removing dirt or fumes from areas where they are produced	B08B 15/00
Ventilation, air-conditioning or cooling specially adapted for vehicles or aircrafts	B60H , B64D
Chimney or flues	F23L 17/02
Ducts in general	F16L
Fans or blowers per se	F04D
Refrigeration machines, systems of plants; heat pumps	F25B
Refrigerators, cold rooms, e.g. for food storage	F25D
Heat-exchanger and details of heat-exchanger	F28D , F28F
Domestic or space-heating systems	F24D
Fluid heaters, water or air-heaters	F24H
Cooling or ventilation of data center	H05K 7/20

Special rules of classification within this subclass

Air-humidification per se, e.g. "room humidifiers", is covered by group [F24F 6/00](#). Air-humidification as auxiliary treatment in air-conditioning, i.e. in units wherein the air is also either cooled or heated is covered by group [F24F 3/14](#).

Glossary of terms

In this subclass/group, the following terms (or expressions) are used with the meaning indicated:

Air-conditioning	Air treatment of room air or spaces comprising at least cooling
Supplied air	Air entering the room
Exhaust air	Air withdrawn from the room
Ventilation	Supplying air to the room, exhausting air from the room and circulating air within the room

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents the following abbreviations are often used:

HVAC	Heating, ventilating and air conditioning
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F24F 1/00

Rooms units, e.g. receiving primary air from a central station [N: or with supply of heating or cooling agents from a central station, such as those applied to air-treatment systems included in [F24F 3/00](#) and [F24F 5/00](#) (arrangement or assembly of components for the primary treatment of air [F24F 11/08](#); mixing chambers for air [F24F 13/04](#))]

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

- Air-conditioning units placed within a room for cooling the room, i.e. fan coil unit of a split unit. These indoor units can thereby receive primary air from a central station and/or recirculate the air within the room and/or supply outside air.
- Split unit comprising an indoor unit and an outdoor unit.
- Outdoor unit of split unit.
- Self-contained units.

Usually, these room units comprise a refrigerant cycle.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Filter units per se	F24F 3/1603
Humidification	F24F 6/00
Dehumidification	F24F 3/14
Central station centrally producing cool air for distributing cool air in a plurality of rooms	F24F 3/00
Systems comprising multiple indoor units	F24F 3/065

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Casing of indoor units and self-contained units	F24F 13/20
Control of room units	F24F 11/0009
Vanes or dampers of room units	F24F 13/14 , F24F 13/15
Condensate evacuation	F24F 13/222

Glossary of terms

In this subclass/group, the following terms (or expressions) are used with the meaning indicated:

Split unit	Air conditioning unit in split configuration, often with the compressor and condenser located in a separate external outdoor unit and the evaporator located in an indoor unit, the two units being connected via refrigerant pipes
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Self-contained unit	Air conditioning unit with all apparatus for air treatment installed in a common casing, e.g. compressor, condenser and evaporator
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F24F 3/00

Air-conditioning systems in which conditioned primary air is supplied from one or more central stations to distributing units in the rooms or spaces where it may receive secondary treatment; Apparatus specially designed for such systems (room units [F24F 1/00](#); construction of heat-exchangers F28) [N: [F24F 3/044](#) takes precedence; arrangement or assembly of components for the primary treatment of air [F24F 11/08](#)]

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Air-conditioning systems in which conditioned primary air is supplied from one or more central stations to distributing units in the rooms or spaces where it may receive secondary treatment; Apparatus specially designed for such systems.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Room humidifier	F24F 6/00
Mounting arrangement of air filters	F24F 13/28
Cogeneration of electricity and heat or cold	F25B
Room units	F24F 1/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Disinfection, sterilisation or deodorisation or air	A61L 9/00
Filter unit per se	B01D

Electric filter	B03C
Drying of gases	B01D 53/26
Computer rooms	H05K 7/20
Clean room for semiconductor production	H01L 21/67017

F24F 5/00

Air-conditioning systems or apparatus not covered by [F24F 1/00](#) or [F24F 3/00](#), [N: e.g. using solar heat; combined with household units such as an oven or water heater]

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

- Exclusively-fluid system, e.g. using water as cooling fluid ([F24F 5/0003](#)),
- Cooling apparatus specially adapted for use in air-conditioning, e.g. using absorption or desorption ([F24F 5/0014](#)), or using cold storage body ([F24F 5/0017](#)) (e.g. PCM material for storage), or using evaporation ([F24F 5/0035](#)).
- Cooling apparatus using the Peltier effect ([F24F 5/0042](#)).
- Cooling apparatus using natural energy ([F24F 5/0046](#)), e.g. solar energy or air from the ground.
- Cooling apparatus using thermal walls ([F24F 5/0075](#)),
- Cooling apparatus using radiation from walls or ceiling ([F24F 5/0089](#)).
- Cooling apparatus combined with domestic apparatus, e.g. boiler, heating system ([F24F 5/0096](#)).

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Air conditioning in containers	B65D 88/74
Absorption or desorption for humidification or dehumidification purposes	F24F 3/1411

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Apparatus using radiation from walls or ceiling for heating purposes only	F24D 3/14 , F24D 3/16
Production of heat using geothermal energy	F24J 3/08
Solar heat collector	F24J 2/04
Hot-water central heating system	F24D 3/18
Phase Change Material (PCM) in general	F28D 20/02
Cooling towers	F28C 1/00

F24F 6/00

Air-humidification, e.g. for increasing comfort in living spaces by "room humidifiers" [N: cooling by humidification]

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Local unit for room humidification by evaporation of water in the air, or by water dispersion or by injection of steam in the air.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Device to humidify the respiration air of patients	A61M 16/16
Humidification systems	F24F 3/14
Cooling using evaporation	F24F 5/0035

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Spraying apparatus with rotating elements discharging water by centrifugal forces	B05B 3/10
Ultrasonic oscillator	B05B 17/06
Steam generation in boilers	F22B 1/28
Humidifying within a fuel cell	H01M 8/04126

F24F 7/00

Ventilation, [N: e.g. by means of wall-ducts; systems using window or roof apertures]

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Systems or apparatus for supplying air to rooms or exhausting air from rooms or circulating air within the rooms.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Ventilation of animal housings	A01K 1/0047
Hoods preventing escape of fumes from the area where they are produced	B08B 15/02
Ventilation systems of lifts	B66B 11/024
Ventilation of mines or tunnels	E21F 1/00
Ventilators or fans per se	F04D
Removing cooking fumes	F24C 15/20
Ventilation control	F24F 11/0001

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Roof-covering elements	E04D 1/30
Ventilation of roof coverings	E04D 13/17
Ventilation through double windows	E06B 7/02

Glossary of terms

In this subclass/group, the following terms (or expressions) are used with the meaning indicated:

Natural circulation	Air circulation without active fan, e.g. chimney effect, using solar energy or using wind energy
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F24F 9/00

Use of air currents for screening, e.g. air curtain (air curtains for vehicles [B60J 9/04](#))

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

- Air curtain delimiting two different spaces.
- Air curtain in a wall opening delimiting a room from the outside
- The air curtain can be obtained by using more than one jet or band.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Means providing sterile air to operating tables in surgery	A61G 13/108
Air curtain for vehicles	B60J 9/04
Removing cooking fumes	F24C 15/20
Clean air workstation	F24F 3/1607
Air curtain in cold rooms	F25D 23/023

F24F 11/00

Control or safety systems or apparatus ([N: extinguishing or preventing fire [A62C 3/14](#)]; control valves per se [F16K](#); humidity control [G05D 22/00](#))

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Control of HVAC devices or systems ([F24F 11/00](#)).

Elements or components of control device, e.g. flap or damper control, ([F24F 11/02](#)).

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Fire prevention or containment	A62C 2/00
Extinguishing or preventing fire	A62C 3/14
Controlling the speed of ventilators by varying driving speed	F04D 27/0261
Control valve per se	F16K
Air flow control members	F24F 13/08
Tilting members, e.g. louver	F24F 13/14
Compressor control	F25B 49/022
Refrigerant flow control	F25B 49/025
Humidity control using electrical means	G05D 22/02
Temperature control using electrical means (thermostat)	G05D 23/19

Special rules of classification within this group

Damper control controlling the rate of air-flow:

- If increasing air pressure opens the damper, then classify in [F24F 11/043](#)
- If increasing air pressure closes the damper, then classify in [F24F 11/047](#)

F24F 12/00

Use of energy recovery systems in air conditioning, ventilation or screening (with both heat and humidity transfer between supplied and exhausted air [F24F 3/147](#) ; heat-exchange in general F28)

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Apparatus and systems with heat-exchange between supplied and exhausted air, e.g. using an air-to-air heat exchanger or using an intermediate fluid, e.g. heat pump.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Both heat and humidity transfer between supplied and exhausted air	F24F 3/147
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Heat-exchange in general	F28D
Heat-exchange apparatus having plate-like conduit	F28D 9/00
Heat pipes	F28D 15/00

F24F 13/00

Details common to, or for air-conditioning, air-humidification, ventilation or use of air currents for screening

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:

Details concerning ducting arrangements ([F24F 13/02](#)); Air outlets ([F24F 13/06](#)); Air-flow control members ([F24F 13/08](#)); Casing or covers ([F24F 13/20](#)).

Means for preventing or evacuating condensate ([F24F 13/22](#)).

Means for preventing or suppressing noise ([F24F 13/24](#)).

Arrangement for air-circulation by means of air-induction ([F24F 13/26](#)).

Arrangement for mounting of filter ([F24F 13/28](#)), of heat exchanger([F24F 13/30](#)).

Mounting means for HVAC devices ([F24F 13/32](#)).

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Ventilating nozzles for vehicles	B60H 1/34
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Mounting of filtering elements within a casing	B01D 46/0005
Ventilation combined with door or window frames	E06B 7/02
Butterfly valves	F16K 1/22
Flange joints of pipes	F16L 23/00
Support for pipes	F16L 3/00
Noise absorbers in pipes	F16L 55/033
Lighting devices combined with ventilating systems	F21V 33/0088
Room units in which secondary air is induced by injection action of the primary air	F24F 1/01

Method or devices for protecting against noise	G10K 11/16
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