Barometric By-Pass Dampers

The Static Pressure Regulating Dampers are barometric relief dampers used to by-pass excess air pressure on zoned systems. The dampers automatically respond to the air pressure in duct as the various zone dampers open and close.

As zone dampers close off air to a number of zones, the supply air pressure in the duct system will increase. This increase in air pressure can increase the noise level and reduce the flow of conditioned air through the HVAC Unit. Using a by-pass damper solves this by automatically compensating for the excess air pressure by opening on the increased pressure and relieving the excess air. The damper helps maintain a constant air pressure in the duct system. This reduces noise that is caused by high air pressures and velocities, as well as maintains a constant volume of air (CFM) through the duct system. Maintaining a constant volume of air through the HVAC System keeps the efficiency of the system at its maximum.

These By-pass Dampers are also available in square/rectangular and round sizes. The chart below lists the available sizes of dampers and their recommended CFM capacities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Square and Rectangular Sizes</th>
<th>CFM</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12&quot;x8&quot;</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>20&quot;x8&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&quot;x10&quot;</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>20&quot;x10&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&quot;x12&quot;</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>20&quot;x12&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round Sizes</th>
<th>CFM</th>
<th>Size (diameter)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7&quot;</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>14&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9&quot;</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calculating By-Pass Air Requirements

Determining the need for by-pass air and the size of the damper required is very simple. It can be very simply calculated by knowing the total CFM capacity of the HVAC unit (T_{CMF}) and subtracting the CFM capacity of the smallest zone (S_{CMF}) will equal the CFM of air required to be by-passed (B_{CMF}).

\[
T_{CMF} - S_{CMF} = B_{CMF}
\]

Once the by-pass amount of air is known, use the chart above to select an appropriately sized by-pass damper. It is always recommended to have a larger size by-pass than having one that is too small. It is much easier to reduce by-pass air through the damper or close it off than having to increase the size of the by-pass duct and/or damper.

Location

Selecting a location to place the By-pass Damper is very important for overall system operation. Ideally the best place for the damper is as far away from the air handler as possible and before any zone dampers. In an extended plenum application where zones come of the side of the main trunk, the end of the extended plenum is the ideal situation.

In most residential applications however the zone dampers are right at the plenum of the air handler. In this application the only location for the by-pass is at the plenum. In this application, especially when the by-pass is ducted to the return, it is recommended that a freeze protection be used as well as the supply air sensors with the zoning panel to protect the equipment from overheating or cooling due to the return by-pass.

Installation

This By-pass Damper is easily installed into any square or rectangular duct by simply cutting a 2 to 3 inch slot on the side of the duct and inserting the damper. The square/rectangular by-pass damper has a 5" wide end plate to cover over the opening. There are six pre-punched holes for self-tapping screws (provided) to be used to secure the damper to the duct.

The round by-pass dampers are also installed in-line of the duct, however the blade in already enclosed in a 10" length of duct. The damper is just like any typical length of round rigid duct, with a crimped end in the direction of the air flow.

Most by-pass installations are typically in horizontal ducts where the damper control blade will close vertically. The by-pass can also be installed in vertical ducts as well; however the counter balanced, weighted arm must be adjusted to offset the weight of the blade. See installation instructions for further information on this application.

This barometric by-pass damper has a weighted control arm that counter balances the weight of the damper blade. The weight adds pressure to the blade to control the amount of air by-passed. The weight can be adjusted up or down on the arm depending upon the amount of air to be by-passed. In addition to the adjustment of the weight the arm can also be moved in order to add leverage for the weight to push against the blade to add more resistance.

To adjust the by-pass damper, first all zones dampers must be open and the fan operating. When all dampers are open the by-pass should be closed. In some instances the damper may be open slightly, especially when the by-pass damper is installed as a true by-pass between the supply and return ducts. This occurs frequently when the damper is closest to the plenum.

After observing the damper position, begin closing the larger zone dampers one by one, until only the smallest zone damper is open. The by-pass damper will most likely be full open at this point. If not, adjust the weight and the arm to provide the correct amount of pressure, prior to the point of increasing the static too much where there will be a reduction in the airflow and air noise becomes an issue.
**Dimensional Drawing – Round**

![Dimensional Drawing – Round Diagram]

**Damper Specifications**
- **Construction** – 22 Gauge Galvanized Steel
- **Dimensions** – 7”, 8”, 9”, 10”, 12”, 14”, 16”, 18”, 20” Diameters.
- **Temperature Rating** – 0°F to 180°F Operating, -20°F to 140°F Storage
- **Humidity** – 5% to 95% Non-Condensing
- **Static Pressure** – Maximum 0.5” W.C.

**Dimensional Drawing – Square and Rectangular**

![Dimensional Drawing – Square and Rectangular Diagram]

**Damper Specifications**
- **Construction** – 22 Gauge Zinc Plated Steel
- **Dimensions** – 12”x8”, 12”x10”, 12”x12”, 20”x8”, 20”x10”, 20”x12”
- **Temperature Rating** – 0°F to 180°F Operating, -20°F to 140°F Storage
- **Humidity** – 5% to 95% Non-Condensing
- **Static Pressure** – Maximum 0.5” W.C.