Question: How long does a system need to be circulated to get the air out?

Answer: There is no formula to determine this – circulate till the air is out and the system is quiet. Normally at least 2 or 3 days minimum but a week or so is even better.

Question: What about Control Companies charging TAB contractors for software and cabling for the purposes of working with DDC boxes?

Answer: It is just not feasible for a TAB or Cx firm to purchase software for each technician for each controls system they might encounter. Even if purchased, the software is continuously being updated and changed which creates even more logistical and expense problems.

Our firm’s position has been that the controls and their calibration is the responsibility of the Controls Contractor however we will provide readings and even enter the calibration numbers if they will provide a computer or software. If they refuse we ask them to supply a technician instead. Usually it is much cheaper for them to loan us a laptop with the software on it.

Question: When the terminal hydronic valves are opened post-flush, what has been your most effective method to ensure that the system is reflushed properly?

Answer: As we noted in the webinar – circulating is not necessarily going to flush the system. Taking samples repeatedly through the process (pre and post Hydronic valves open) and continuing to flush and circulate until they are clear is the only way it can be done.

Question: Many people use ribbons to flag dampers. Is this a fire hazard in plenum ceilings?

Answer: Some jurisdictions do not allow this since the plastic ribbon is not fire or smoke rated. The likelihood of them actually causing a fire is probably very remote.

Question: What types of dampers are recommended, single blade vs. multiple blades and standard leakage vs low leakage type?

Answer: For low pressure ductwork, standard leakage is fine if it has a good fit (damper blade is full size and centered properly).

Round duct would be single blade and rectangular duct larger than 12 x 12 is typically multiple blade.

Question: Has the inclusion of commissioning helped avoid some of the discussed TAB issues?
Answer: Unfortunately, we often find commissioned projects with exactly the same problems as non-commissioned ones. The key seems to be getting away from process (paper) commissioning to technical (hands-on) commissioning and carefully vetting the Commissioning firm that is used. Strongly recommend finding firms that can be trusted to do the work properly.