Is there a Schrader?

Excellent question and I can tell you we get a bunch of calls each year from technicians asking the same thing. Whether a transducer or a pressure switch, the question is always the same: is there a Schrader under that device? For many years manufacturers were not allowed to put a Schrader between the safety switch and the pressure vessel it was designed to protect. However, that rule was relaxed years ago so newer equipment in the field can have a Schrader, but unless you call the manufacturer of the specific product you can’t know for sure and there’s no way to look at it to determine if it has one or not. My recommendation has always been, “If you don’t know for sure, assume it does not have one.” This is the safest approach.

So when replacing a transducer or pressure switch that you know for sure is NOT leaking, just leave the old one in place and install a tap valve into the refrigeration system that allows access to the pressures within while not requiring you to recover the existing charge. Then use a valve that contains the Schrader so you can remove the new pressure switch or transducer as needed.

Question from John W. West Jr. of Chester, VA. Answer from Jack Bartell, Director of Services and Training, Virginia Air Distributors.

Clicking Noise

Excellent question and I can tell you we get a bunch of calls each year from technicians asking the same thing.

The clicking sound you are hearing is likely the compressor contactor. Make sure that it is closing the circuit. If it is, confirm you are getting power to the compressor. If you have power at the compressor and it isn’t running, something is going on. Make sure the problem isn’t a bad run capacitor, then recheck the compressor. It could be an open winding, or its motor is grounded. I believe the overload is internal on this compressor. If it is external, confirm that it isn’t open.

Question from Jimmy DeNardo of Sarasota, FL. Answer from Andy Schoen, CM, Portfolio and Customer Services Manager, Sanhua USA.