CASE STUDY
Cox Science Building

University Of Miami (Florida) Meets Safety Codes Using Duct Sealing

The University of Miami's Cox science building was undergoing a partial renovation. After testing dozens of fume hoods located in laboratories throughout the four-story building, the school's environmental health and safety group found many of the hoods were not providing sufficient exhaust. The reason: leaks in the connecting ducts and ventilation shafts.

Traditional duct sealing methods would have required a near demolition of the 50-year-old building. Instead, the duct sealing crew at AirMax Service Corporation used Aeroseal duct sealing to successfully seal all nine targeted duct systems in less than two weeks. No demolition. No interruptions. 100% code compliance.

The complex intertwining of internal duct systems and surrounding construction made locating and accessing leaks specific to targeted hoods impossible for traditional duct sealing methods. Short of demolition and rebuilding, the only viable option was an Aeroseal duct sealing.

This system, proven safe and effective, uses a mist of aerosolized sealant to find and seals leaks from the inside of the pressurized ductwork.

The 20 fume hoods were connected to rooftop exhaust fans via nine separate duct and ventilation shaft systems. One at a time, each duct system was blocked on both ends so that incoming air could only escape through leaks in the duct walls. The Aeroseal system was attached to each shaft until the leaks were completely sealed. A retesting by a third party TAB company confirmed what Aeroseal indicated: all nine shafts were properly and effectively sealed.

> We could have completely demolished and replaced the existing duct system… or used Aeroseal. The choice was a no-brainer. In the end, Aeroseal proved to be a highly effective – and cost effective – means of sealing the leaks and getting the fume hoods under safety compliance.

Michael Lorion
President
AirMax

PROJECT OVERVIEW

BUILDING
Cox Science Building

LOCATION
University of Miami, Coral Gables

AEROSEAL CONTRACTORS
AirMax Service Corp.

CONTRACT ENGINEER
SmartAir Systems

GOAL
Reduce duct leakage – get all laboratory fume hoods operating under code compliance.

BEFORE AEROSEAL
1,000+ CFM of leakage

AFTER AEROSEAL
215 CFM of leakage

RESULTS
With 80% reduction of leakage, all twenty fume hoods were retested and successfully met safety requirements.

> Research showed Aeroseal has been successfully used at a number of other universities, science laboratories, and hospitals. It was great to watch the computer monitor as it tracked the sealing process. You can actually see the graph go down as the leaks are being filled. We were pleased with the results and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to others.

Gary Tarbe
Senior Project Manager
University of Miami (Florida)

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