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HEATCRAFT COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

## Sears Tower Coil Replacement: A Tall Order



*Photo courtesy of John Buck Co.*

Heatcraft retrofitted 216 coils in The Sears Tower in Chicago, Illinois — one of the largest commercial office buildings in the world — one year earlier than originally scheduled, under budget, and without any tenant shutdown.

### THE PROBLEMS

*One:* A mechanical survey of the Sears Tower indicated the need for load profile changes; deterioration of the original cooling coil casings, resulting in sagging; and an upcoming CFC refrigerant changeout — all pointing to the necessity of a new coil design.

*Two:* The coil retrofit would have to be completed within 24 months, with no inconvenience to tenants and with no air- or water-side rebalance of the building — while maintaining the same chilled water (CW) capacity but raising the chilled water leaving temperature from the current 38 degrees to 42 degrees fahrenheit.

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## THE SOLUTION

Call Heatcraft's Commercial Products plant in Grenada, Mississippi, where custom-made, "guaranteed to fit" replacement coils are manufactured according to original specifications and can be shipped in as little as 48 hours.



An exterior view of the chilled water coil chamber.

"We made an unannounced visit to Heatcraft's Grenada plant to perform random tube, header and connection wall thickness checks on Sears Tower coils," said Roland Ares, consulting engineer for the project. "The results were much to our satisfaction."

Transporting the completed coils up to the various machine room levels of the world's tallest building required close coordination between Heatcraft and Sears Tower management. At the request of building management, Heatcraft designed a custom shipping

crate to fit easily into Sears Tower freight elevators. "This exemplifies the type of preplanning, communications, and cooperation that made this a fast-moving, on-budget, no-misunderstanding type of job," said Ares.

Soon after the project began, the Sears Tower acquired a new building management team, The John Buck Co. "The newly-appointed building manager recognized the care with which this project had been laid out and implemented," Ares noted. Only one update meeting was necessary to bring the new management up to speed on the project.



An interior view of the newly installed chilled water coils with Tom Cronin, chief engineer, Sears Tower The John Buck Company.

## THE RESULT

All coils were designed, built, shipped and installed to exacting specifications within 12 months — half the time of the original plan — without tenant shutdown and under the original budget.



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