

Avoid Serious Risks on HVAC/R Projects

WARNING: *Conex MaxiPro/ZoomLock Max fittings and jaws closely resemble plumbing press fittings and jaws. Confusing these products on the job could have devastating results.*

	
<p>Plumbing Press Fittings Plumbing press-to-connect fittings were introduced approximately 20 years ago. Today, there are numerous press fitting manufacturers in the plumbing market – all with a nearly identical fitting design and with nearly identical, hexagonally-shaped jaws. In fact, these fittings have become so universal that nearly all fittings and jaws are completely interchangeable, regardless of manufacturer.</p>	<p>Modified Plumbing Fittings Sometime after June of 2019, Conex Banninger introduced their current “B MaxiPro” fittings, which are now also sold under the ZoomLock Max brand. These fittings and jaws look very similar to those used for plumbing, with no flare on the fittings and hexagonally-shaped jaws. The close resemblance creates the potential for a mix-up on the jobsite – for a plumbing fitting to be used on an HVAC/R line, and for an HVAC/R fitting to be pressed with a plumbing jaw.</p> <p>RLS HVAC/R Press Fittings With the RLS press system, in use since 2015, the exact opposite is true. We designed and engineered our fittings and jaws specifically for high-pressure HVAC/R. The fitting design – with our signature flare on the end – and our jaw profile are both part of our patented intellectual property. So, they are 100% unique and cannot be copied. RLS fittings and jaws look different than plumbing fittings and jaws...because they ARE different in many ways.</p>

The Risk

Plumbing fittings are only rated to 200 psi, compared to 700 psi for RLS press fittings. In addition, their EPDM o-rings are incompatible with most refrigerants. So, if a plumbing fitting is used in an HVAC/R system, the result could be disastrous. At minimum, the joint will simply fail, causing a loss of refrigerant. But at worst, the fitting could separate violently under pressure, causing serious damage and/or personal injury to anyone in the area. Similar results could also occur if a modified plumbing fitting is accidentally pressed with a standard plumbing fitting jaw.

FOR THESE REASONS, ONLY RLS PRESS FITTINGS SHOULD BE SPECIFIED OR USED FOR HVAC/R ON PROJECTS WHERE PLUMBING FITTINGS COULD BE PRESENT.

