CLAIMS

1. A method for installing a refrigeration apparatus (10) to a building (90), the refrigeration apparatus (10) including a heat source unit (11), utilization-side units (12a to 12f), and a branch-off unit (13) that is provided to a liquid-side connection pipe (20) and a gas-side connection pipe (25) via which the heat source unit (11) is connected to the utilization-side units (12a to 12f),

the branch-off unit (13) including

a liquid-side header (50) provided to the liquid-side connection pipe (20), the liquid-side header (50) including a single liquid-side collecting port (52) for connection with a pipe (21) extending to the heat source unit (11) and liquid-side branch-off ports (54a to 54f) for connection with pipes (22a to 22f) extending to the utilization-side units (12a to 12f), the single liquid-side collecting port (52) communicating with all of the liquid-side branch-off ports (54a to 54f),

a gas-side header (60) provided to the gas-side connection pipe (25), the gas-side header (60) including a single gas-side collecting port (62) for connection with a pipe (26) extending to the heat source unit (11) and gas-side branch-off ports (64a to 64f) for connection with pipes (27a to 27f) extending to the utilization-side units (12a to 12f), the single gas-side collecting port (62) communicating with all of the gas-side branch-off ports (64a to 64f), and

a casing (40) in which the liquid-side header (50) and the gas-side header (60) are stored, the method comprising:

an installation step of installing the heat source unit (11) outside the building (90) and installing the utilization-side units (12a to 12f) and the branch-off unit (13) inside the building (90);

a first connecting step of connecting the heat source unit (11) and the branch-off unit (13) to each other via a liquid-side trunk pipe (21) and a gas-side trunk pipe (26), the liquid-side trunk pipe (21) being made of a plurality of pipe members (31) connected to each other via a mechanical pipe joint (33), the gas-side trunk pipe (26) being made of a plurality of pipe members (32) connected to each other via a mechanical pipe joint (34); and

a second connecting step of connecting the utilization-side units (12a to 12f) and the branch-off unit (13) to each other via liquid-side branch pipes (22a to 22f) and gas-side branch pipes (27a to 27f), each of the liquid-side branch pipes (22a to 22f) and the gas-side branch pipes (27a to 27f) being made of seamless pipes.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a branch pipe manufacturing step of manufacturing the liquid-side branch pipes (22a to 22f) and the gas-side branch pipes (27a to 27f) by cutting, on a site where the refrigeration apparatus (10) is to be installed, a long copper pipe carried to the site in a form of a coiled package, each of the liquid-side branch pipes (22a to 22f) and the gas-side branch pipes (27a to 27f) being made of seamless pipes, wherein

in the second connecting step, the utilization-side units (12a to 12f) and the branch-off unit (13) are connected to each other via the liquid-side branch pipes (22a to 22f) and the gas-side branch pipes (27a to 27f) manufactured in the branch pipe manufacturing step.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

the branch-off unit (13) is configured such that the liquid-side branch-off ports (54a to 54f) and the gas-side branch-off ports (64a to 64f) are respectively provided with flared pipe joints (57, 67), and

in the second connecting step, the liquid-side branch pipes (22a to 22f) are connected to the liquid-side branch-off ports (54a to 54f) via the flared pipe joints (57), respectively, and the gas-side branch pipes (27a to 27f) are connected to the gas-side branch-off ports (64a to 64f) via the flared pipe joints (67), respectively.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the pipe members (31, 32), which constitute the liquid-side trunk pipe (21) and the gas-side trunk pipe (26) used in the first connecting step, are made by braze-bonding of a plurality of parts, and the pipe members (31, 32) manufactured in a factory or a workshop are carried into the building (90) where the refrigeration apparatus (10) is to be installed.