



Refrigerant food distribution facility in Holland maximises process uptime using **FAAST** aspiration system



- Distribution Centre Bleiswijk - distributor for Netherlands food retailer Dirk van den Broek, based in Holland. Integrated by BRI Groep (<http://www.brigroep.nl/>)

Application:

- Diverse food produce storage facility
- Includes chiller (2°C/35.6°F) and refrigeration rooms (-24°C/-11.2°F)

Challenges:

- Fluctuations in temperature (resulting from accessing rooms to store/remove produce), causes considerable humidity fog
- Existing fire system often goes into false alarm – sometimes three times per day

Requirement:

- No false alarms - productivity must be maximised 24/7
- Simple integration with fire panel and user-friendly installation
- Reduced cost of ownership and maintenance requirements

The solution: **FAAST** and **FAAST LT**

- 8 x **FAAST** systems located inside the facility's six chiller rooms with associated aspiration pipework
- 1 x **FAAST** system located external to the refrigeration room
- 90m of pipe associated with each system
- just 9 **FAAST** systems required for facility protection



Chiller, freezer and refrigeration applications present one of the most challenging environments for accurate fire detection.

A refrigerant/chiller facility manager's main goal is uninterrupted operation 24/7, with zero down time. A suitable device must alarm to even the smallest fire event (because of the associated produce contamination risks and potential scrap costs), and also be resistant to the effects of non-fire related stimulus. The extreme cold temperatures, dry atmospheric conditions and humidity fog created by temperature changes during normal operation hours in such an application make advanced technologies necessary.

Jan Van Beelen, Technical Director, from BRI Groep explains why **FAAST** sets the standard for refrigerant application fire detection monitoring, delivering uncompromised performance and reduced ongoing costs.

Distribution Centre Bleiswijk fire detection

DC Bleiswijk is a distributor for the Netherlands food retailer Dirk van den Broek and has chosen **FAAST** to protect its large facility located in Bleiswijk, Holland that includes two chiller rooms (2°C/28.4°F) and one refrigeration room (-24°C/-11.2°F) designed to store varied food produce.

The climate controlled rooms themselves have high ceilings and are designed with large wall doors for easy access and high volume loading. This creates the potential for considerable temperature fluctuations to occur, resulting in a humidity fog that can be problematic for many traditional fire detection monitoring devices.

“**FAAST** was recommended to us by a sister site as the premier solution for a number of reasons including proven performance with no false alarms, ease and flexibility



FAAST



FAAST LT



of installation and simplified on-going maintenance. This qualified user experience was very attractive to us because of the similarities of the application.”

Zero false alarms

Jan highlights the client’s main requirements. “A key concern was limiting nuisance alarms that can be produced while loading/unloading stock; when the wall doors are open there is a dramatic shift in temperature and this creates humidity fog. Many conventional detectors often go into alarm in such conditions and this was unacceptable to the end-user.

“The facility operates 24/7 and zero false alarms was a prerequisite because of their associated cost; when such an event occurs the whole building has to be evacuated and due to the amount of loading/unloading taking place, a false alarm could happen as frequently as three times per day potentially.

“As expert integrators with experience in refrigeration applications, we were aware of the limitations of convectional detectors and had used aspiration systems at other similar sites. We knew aspiration was the right solution – we just needed to source the right model.”

Simple installation and integration

As integrators, simplified installation was a key attribute required by BRI Groep, combined with easy integration into an existing fire panel. “We found the PipelQ software provided with FFAST very effective for designing the final system and allowing us to visualise where we would situate the ceiling pipework with maximum efficiency. This was a very time-effective process for us, because FFAST has ‘plug and play’ capabilities. If we had used conventional detectors we would have needed to install cables for each device, but FFAST is linked to a continuous pipework, so this is not only quicker to integrate but considerably more cost-effective. The only cabling required is for the FFAST system itself”.

Jan comments on the ease of integration and why FFAST provides great efficiency over product life.

“The application was an existing building with a fire panel,

so the end-user wanted a solution that could easily integrate into this infrastructure.

“We were able to locate the FFAST systems inside the chiller rooms and for the refrigerant room, the unit was situated outside the environment with a water trap to compensate for the effects of high humidity.”

Ease of maintenance

Jan continues by detailing additional criteria and considerations that impacted the final product choice made. “In addition to performance and zero false alarms, the customer also wanted affordability over product life. The fact we were able to apply 90m of continuous pipe work (requiring no maintenance), and reduce on-going device care requirements from hundreds of conventional detectors to just seven FFAST units, delivered the cost reduction our client was looking to achieve. We have been delighted with FFAST in every way - it really does live up to its claims, providing a highly attractive solution for refrigerant and chiller monitoring.”

“FAAST truly delivers on all its promises with no false alarms and ultra-sensitive detection and it has already delivered considerable savings to our customer.”

Visit www.faast-detection.com for more information on FFAST and FFAST LT.

