



## ▶ THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE & MAINTENANCE



*J & E Hall's Director of Applied Refrigeration and Service Business, Peter McAllister, sets out the help available to refrigeration plant managers in food processing as change continues at a pace in the industry.*

In the food processing industry service and maintenance is a key element in production and is often viewed by plant managers as the fourth utility after electricity, gas and water.

### FORMING PARTNERSHIPS

At J & E Hall we understand that with the service and maintenance of refrigeration equipment no one size fits all and we work closely with our customers to ensure that their specific site requirements are met. Forming partnerships with customers gives us a better understanding of the demands of site restrictions, allows for greater energy efficiencies and the end game of a more cost effective production and cold storage operation. We service a wide range of systems including those running on ammonia, HFCs, CO2 and hydrocarbons.

There are a number of basic steps that site refrigeration managers must take to keep on top of service and maintenance.

**Good record keeping must be a key part of any service and maintenance programme. This will assist the engineer in diagnosing problems and help them in their decision making.**

### PLANNED SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

Main components will always require regular monitoring and inspection. The last thing a busy operation needs is for production to come to a halt because of issues with compressors, valves, pumps or coils. A planned service and maintenance programme will help prevent this from happening and remove much of the stress.

It's not only the electrical and mechanical side at risk if you fail to have a comprehensive and regular service and maintenance programme. Unsafe plant and inefficient systems can lead to hygiene and health and safety issues for employees. Refrigerants by their nature can be hazardous, so having engineers on call 24/7 365 days a year with an understanding of how to prevent these issues developing in the first place is a must.

### THE NATIONAL COMPANY WITH A LOCAL FEEL

We have ten branches throughout England, Scotland and Wales and our engineers are available 24-7 at each of our ten service centres to respond to service and maintenance call-outs. This allows us to react quickly when a problem happens and gives the customer the security that an experienced engineer will soon be on hand. With over 60 engineers and 12 apprentices available nationwide we are proud of our long standing and growing national presence.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

## ONE-STOP SHOP

We understand that a one-stop approach to service is the preferred option as this allows site managers to concentrate on production machinery. In turn they can be reassured that their refrigeration needs are managed and maintained by trained specialists.

### *Having engineers on-call with high skill sets is critical*

At J & E Hall we invest heavily in our staff and many of our engineers began their careers with us as apprentices – including me. Some of our employees on the tools have stayed with the company for more than 30 years .

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry is evolving all the time. Refrigerant recovery is playing a large role due to the ban on the use of high GWP virgin refrigerants (above 2500 GWP).

There is also a ban on servicing, topping up and recharging equipment with virgin refrigerants that have a GWP of more than 2500 and where the charge is greater than 40 tonnes of CO2 equivalent – that's equal in amount to approximately 10kgs of R404A.

## THE MOVE TO LOW GWP REFRIGERANTS

For those refrigeration plant managers who have yet to make the switch to low GWP refrigerants, retrofits, replacements and other upgrades will be needed. These phasedowns will have a significant influence on how we operate, especially with virgin R404A and R422D, and it's important that plant managers have the support and right technical advice to handle these changes. The phasedowns will continue to at least 2030 and are likely to go beyond this.

Facing up to the high GWP challenge and understanding what this means to your production operation will be among the questions taxing plant managers in the years to come as they look for greater efficiencies in refrigeration.

Only by getting expert help and support from people who understand your business will you achieve this.

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