

Case study 523

Andrews safeguard huge potato yield

Like most tuberous crops, potatoes have a high moisture content which can cause problems inside a storage environment if appropriate steps are not taken. Failure to closely monitor conditions will increase the likelihood of spoiling and ultimately affect stock levels if part of a yield is lost. A multinational producer of potato-based foods was recently faced with this precise situation when a bacterial soft rot caused gradual decaying. The company in question are one of the world's largest distributors of process potatoes which are used to make fries and similar goods in the fast food industry.

Typically harvested in early autumn, these root vegetables are stored in facilities which have tailored ventilation systems designed to pick up the large amounts of moisture released. This moisture must then be extracted from the potatoes to prevent them from decomposing. Unfortunately for our client, their ventilation arrangement will not operate efficiently if the air outside has a high moisture content – which is generally the case between the months of September and November.

They therefore contacted Andrews Dehumidification and requested a drying solution that would help salvage a large batch of produce. Our response was to position a high capacity KT2000 desiccant dehumidifier outside each store and use ducting to force dry air inside. This measure ensured the interiors were suitable for perishable food to be retained as moisture was being constantly collected by our equipment on site.

Despite the urgent nature of the enquiry, we were able to tailor a practical dehumidification hire package which was ideal for a series of specialised applications. Our quick response helped saved over 85% of the customer's stock which was valued at several hundred thousand Pounds. We have even developed a contingency plan for next year which will leave them better prepared to protect precious crops going forward.



Extraction rate (max) 450 litres/24hr
Nominal extraction duty at 75%
RH @ 20°C 300 litres/24hr
Air flow (max) 2,000 m³/h
Keep dry area (typical) 5,500 m³
Dry out area (typical) 3,300 m³
Power supply 415V 3ph 50Hz
Plug type BS4343 230V 5 pin 32 A
Weight 225 kg
Dimensions (LxWxH) mm 1,290 x 890
x 1,050
Control humidistat option
Average power consumption 20 kW/h



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