

Watts Sylax

Keeping cheese chilled

Case Study



Image for representation purposes only

WATTS®



SCOPE
Butterfly valves for chillers

- **WHO**
Orchard Refrigeration
- **WHAT**
Chilled food storage
- **HOW**
Bespoke SOCLA solution
- **WHERE**
Craigavon, Northern Ireland
- **WHEN**
September 2020

Orchard Refrigeration contacted Watts to discuss the challenges they were facing while managing the chilling processes for a large cheese storage facility in Northern Ireland.



Image for representation purposes only

Bespoke solution for workhorse chillers

Accurate temperature control and safe chilling environments are an essential part of the food and drink industry. Orchard Refrigeration currently has 300 butterfly valves installed across three factory locations on a single site in Craigavon.

This large industrial site is responsible for fresh food and dairy and it is the chilling side of the site that has provided this unusual challenge. At Watts we pride ourselves on manufacturing high quality components and we were both surprised and disappointed when Orchard Refrigeration reported unexpected failures on a small percentage of the butterfly valves that that have installed on site.

The Watts team responded quickly to investigate these rare failures to reassure the customer and identify the cause. After careful analysis it was discovered that the source of the failures is the volume of chiller cycles being run daily. At their peak, there were more than 700 cycles running per day which were directly shortening the lifespan of the installed butterfly valves. This means that based on butterfly valves durability performance, the installed valves are not failing early, they are working within, and often exceeding their normal lifespan of cycles.

James Turner, National Key Account Manager for Watts explains: “Once the SOCLA team identified the cycles as the source of these unexpected failures, we were able to work with Orchard Refrigeration to deliver a tailored solution.

Our proposal to improve the lifespan on this hard-working site is to change the valve disc designed to accommodate the working pressure of the chillers.

Watts has now supplied new, lower pressure discs for the valves that have been rigorously tested by the customer on site and these are extending the life of the valves. The new discs will be rolled out across the site ensuring that this factory now has a truly bespoke solution to its chilling challenges.”

By implementing this solution, Orchard Refrigeration are now able to plan their maintenance schedule proactively instead of reactively responding to unforeseen breakdowns. Over time this will provide them with both maintenance cost savings and improve the performance at the plant. The Watts team have proudly worked together to deliver this and are looking forward to seeing the benefits of this for Orchard Refrigeration.



SOCLA Benefits

With several million Sylax butterfly valves installed worldwide, this range of Watts products is world renowned for its high quality and excellent performance in industrial process or general circuit applications.

Available from DN25 to 1200mm, Sylax valves can be found for in a diverse range of applications in industrial installations and buildings including fire prevention systems, gas, automobiles, chemicals and in the food and drink industry.





Watts

At Watts we have one of the widest product ranges in the industry and our products improve comfort, safety and the quality of life for people around the world.

Our range encompasses several well-known brands that form a key part of our product offer. Our experienced team can supply everything you need for your project whether it's plumbing or flow control solutions, water quality and conditioning or HVAC you'll find a Watts product that meets your needs with full support available across the entire product range.

For more information about SOCLA products please call 01480 407074 or email us on wattsuk@wattswater.com

The descriptions and photographs contained in this document are supplied by way of example and illustration only. Watts Industries reserves the right to carry out any technical and design improvements to its products without prior notice. Watts hereby objects to any term, different from or additional to Watts terms, contained in any buyer communication in any form, unless agreed to in a writing signed by an officer of Watts.



Watts Industries UK Ltd
Colmworth Business Park, Eaton Socon, St. Neots, PE19 8YX, UK
T: +44 (0) 1480 407074 • F: +44 (0) 1480 407076
Email: wattsuk@wattswater.com • Web: wattswater.co.uk