



12/07/2007 - Travelling Refrigerators Go Dutch

Ettern - Leur, Holland is the home town of Thetford Europe B.V. one of Europe's foremost producers of absorption refrigerators for the caravan and motor home markets.

A subsidiary company of the Thetford Corporation of America and Norcold Incorporated, Thetford B.V. is part of one of the world's leading manufacturers of mobile sanitation systems and refrigerators/freezers for the recreational vehicle industry and operates in a modern plant built alongside the established sanitation and chemicals systems factory.



This new factory has seen the recent installation of a turnkey plant supplied by OMS Group for the production of a 5 model range of absorption refrigerators, the plant being capable of producing 60,000 units per year on a one shift cycle.

The scope of the OMS supply included 3no. "universal" foaming fixtures, each capable of foaming two cabinets per cycle. Refrigeration foaming is completely automatic with the cabinet pre-assemblies being placed "mouth down" onto dedicated pallets which are loaded and unloaded via an automatic double carrier sited between the pre-heat ovens and the foaming fixtures. After foaming, the cooling units are fixed into a dedicated space at an intermediate assembly station. The cabinets are then moved on to a group of 3no.

specialty designed fixtures where the foaming of the cooling unit section is performed. Each group of fixtures is serviced by a single mixing head mounted on a motorised carriage unit.

Foaming equipment chosen for the cabinet and cooling circuit unit foaming is an OMS Penta HP 100/50 Auto Data fitted with 2no. mixing heads and a Data Capture System to continuously monitor in real time all the working parameters of the machine.

The palletised transport arrangement, running from pre-assembly to post foam assembly carries a special I.D. system which permits product tracking throughout the whole manufacturing process. Door foaming is performed by a 5 station OMS Rotary Door Plant coupled to a double Penta HP 40/20 Auto Data fitted with 2 mixing heads for simultaneous pouring of two doors.

From Pentane and raw materials storage through to the supply of the complex foaming plugs and door moulds required, OMS Group handled the entire project. Included in the package was an OMS CARTESIO Quality Control Processor, a very sophisticated software system which collects data from all the machines through an Ethernet network and transfers it to a personal computer which holds a complete Data Bank for the entire plant.