

Kara Foods

Major structural repairs had to be carried out to a 6 tonne chiller unit all the time maintaining 'business as usual' and providing storage services for a major food chain. A challenging project achieved with no loss of business.



Location: Eccles, Manchester

Project: Structural repairs

Duration: 18 weeks

Challenge

Kara Foods is a major supplier to the food retail industry. One of their 6 tonne freezer units had experienced considerable frost damage to the floor, in fact the whole unit was leaning badly because of the failure of its structural supports. Containing goods for some key food chains, shutting down the freezer was not an option. The challenge was to conduct these major structural repairs in a live environment and losing no stock or business.

Solution

Building Projects (UK) had to work closely with a structural engineer throughout the whole project to ensure the design could cope with temperatures of -30°C and below, as well as a weekly thaw and wash down. Building works completed included:

- Replacing a specially designed concrete sub base
- Insulating the floor with panels and heater mats
- Installing rubber mats under the stainless steel frame and placing heating wires to reduce the risk of temperature transfer into the concrete sub base

- Electrical and mechanical installations
- Installation of a bespoke fibreglass resin surface membrane
- Crash decks to withstand the impact of falling ice

Benefits

The project was completed to schedule and to the high standards that the client expected. It was completed with no unscheduled downtime or loss of business, which was critical to the client. Building Projects (UK) used temporary screens and sealed partitions to enable building works to continue in the live environment to prevent contamination and downtime. It meant a considerable amount of work had to be undertaken in very difficult working conditions which required strategic planning and preparation.

