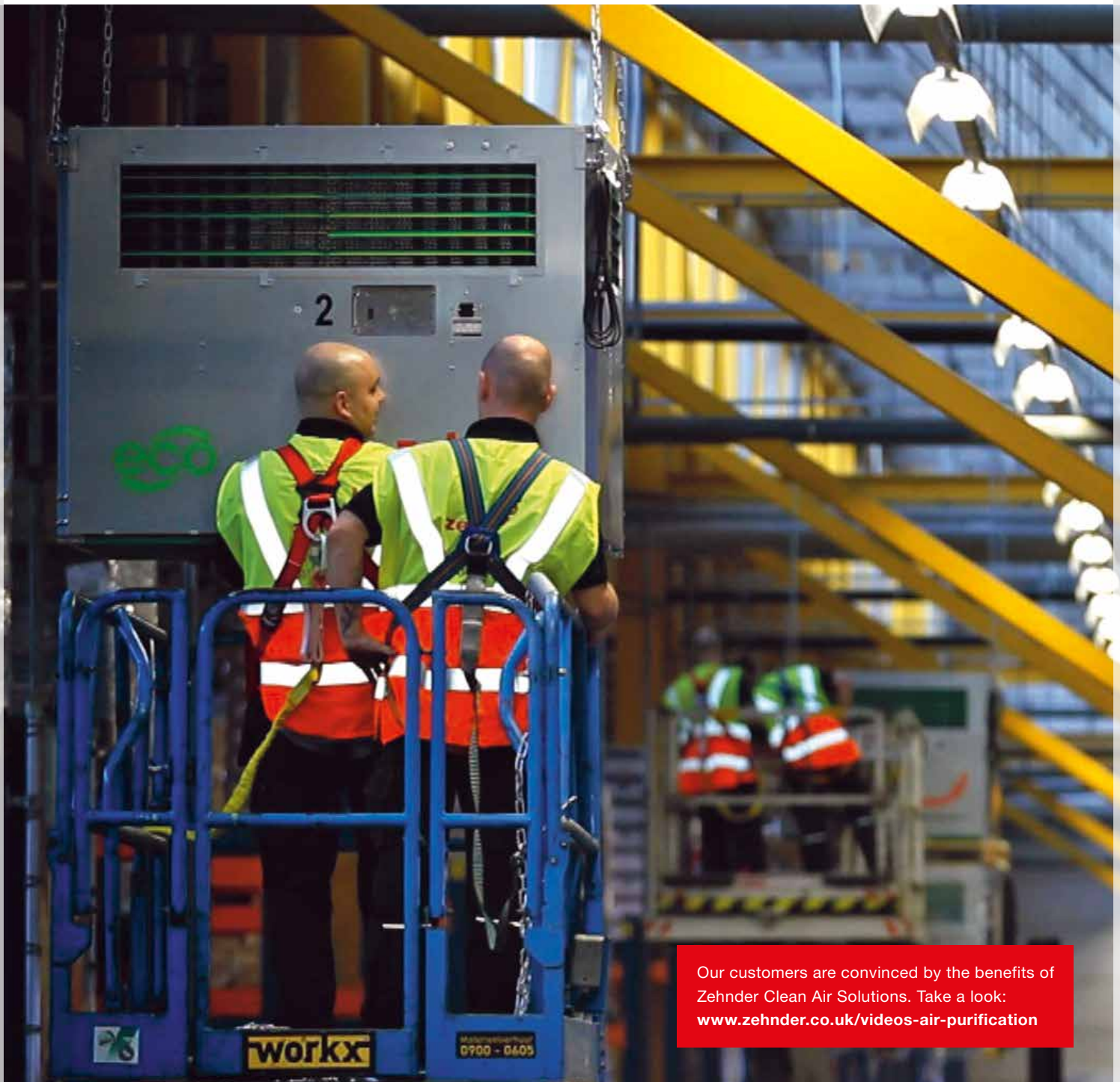


Ahold The Netherlands

Distribution centres



Our customers are convinced by the benefits of Zehnder Clean Air Solutions. Take a look:
www.zehnder.co.uk/videos-air-purification

Ahold

The Netherlands



The royal Ahold is a global retailer of high-quality consumer goods with a turnover of more than 30 billion euros. The company with Dutch roots is primarily active in the United States and Europe. The group is the largest retailer in the Netherlands. The flagship, Albert Heijn, is the leading supermarket chain in the Netherlands with more than 800 stores. Specialty shop Gall & Gall is at the top of the wine & distilled beverages sector with more than 500 shops. Etos, a chain with more than 500 locations, is a leader in the field of healthcare, personal care and beauty products. The Dutch consumer is also served by the combined delivery service, Albert.nl.

For years, Ahold looked for a system that would improve the working conditions of employees in their distribution centres and reduce the costs of maintaining their machines. Last year that solution was finally found, in Zehnder Clean Air Solutions. "Previously, we organised cleanings in our distribution centres two to three times a year in order to keep the amount of dust under reasonable limits", explains Roy Heijs, European Sourcing Manager at Ahold. "This was to lower the level of dust on products, but also the level of dust in the air in the warehouse. People were regularly complaining of dusty air and difficulty breathing. At Ahold, we wanted to be free of this in one fell swoop, if at all possible."

Quickly convinced

As it turns out, that was indeed possible. Colleagues at sister company ICA in Sweden drew Heijs's attention to a new system. They had fitted their distribution centre with a special air filter system from Zehnder, to filter and purify the air. "We went there to investigate and we were very quickly convinced of the system's effectiveness." Since the installation of the new system, they have noticed that there is much less dust in the warehouse and a healthier working environment for employees. "Another added benefit was that machine maintenance costs decreased, which is also not a trivial point", comments Heijs.

FACTS

Company:	Ahold
Person interviewed:	Roy Heijs, European Sourcing Manager
Sector:	Distribution centres
Location:	Geldermalsen, Zaandam, Tilburg, Pijnakker, Zwolle, the Netherlands
Dust reduction after installation:	90 %
Dust source:	Dust from forklifts and warehouse operations
Benefits:	Reduced sick-leave, better working environment, improved working environment, reduced need for cleaning and maintenance of machines, lower electricity costs
Installed products:	Geldermalsen (14 x E3000, 27 x E12000), Zaandam (3 x E6000, 19 x E12000), Tilburg (3 x E6000, 17 x E12000), Pijnakker (1 x E6000, 20 x E12000), Zwolle (2 x E6000, 10 x E12000)



Many hundreds of people work in Ahold distribution centres every single day. It is due to their efforts that all the items arrive on time at supermarkets throughout the country. "That is why people are a priority to us. Ahold believes that they deserve the best", states Ronald McMurray. McMurray is the facility manager at the Ahold distribution centre in Geldermalsen, where Zehnder Clean Air Solutions was first installed in the Netherlands. In the beginning there was some scepticism at Ahold about the system, despite the positive stories from Sweden. It was agreed that the system would first be tested during a trial period in one section of the distribution centre. "This was so successful in such a short time, that we were very quickly convinced. And this

led to equipping the entire Geldermalsen distribution centre with Zehnder Clean Air Solutions", says Heijs.

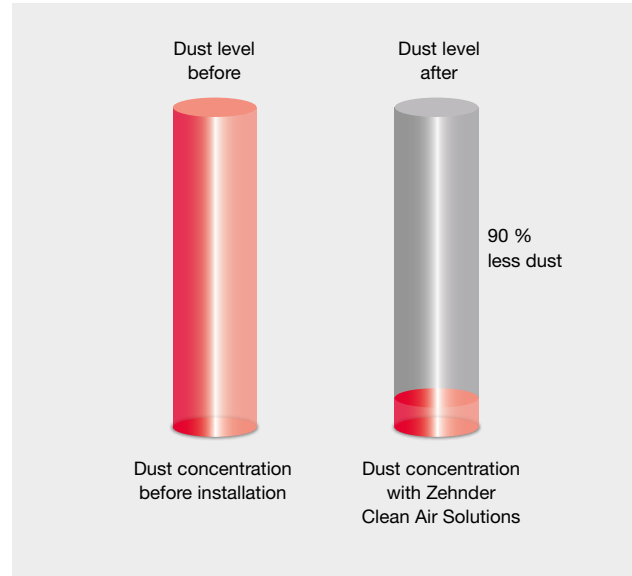
Positive reactions

Roy Heijs also indicates that measurements show that Clean Air Solutions works. "We took measurements before we installed Clean Air Solutions; the dust levels were above 400 microns per cubic metre. After we installed Clean Air Solutions the level was just 50 microns per cubic metre. A considerable improvement!" McMurray received the first positive reactions after just a few days, as did Michael Keizer, who works in the Geldermalsen distribution centre.

"Colleagues often said they were bothered by the dust; they complained of various things, such as a dry throat. Now the dust content in the air is much lower and we hear far fewer complaints of sore throats, complaints that we did hear before." There is another way to see that the air in the hall is cleaner:

"There used to always be a thick layer of dust on the pallets in the hall; that's gone now, too. Everyone here is really happy about the positive results!" enthusiastically comments Keizer.

McMurray is not surprised by these reactions. "I don't think it's strange; measurements show that the quality of the air inside the facility is comparable to that of the air outside."



Lower energy costs

Another positive result of Clean Air Solutions is that the energy costs go down. The warm air that normally stays at the top of the hall is now blown lower, so less energy is needed to heat a hall. “That means lower energy consumption and lower energy costs. That’s a win-win situation for Ahold!” declares McMurray. “Zehnder Clean Air Solutions met our requirements, so we’ve decided to equip all of the Albert Heijn distribution centres with Clean Air Solutions. But we won’t stop there; Moreover we will also install the system in the Etos and Gall & Gall distribution centres.”

Clean Air Solutions is also a boon for the machines. “There is an enormous number of forklift trucks driving around our distribution centre, all of which contain electrical components. Previously we had

to blow out the components to get rid of the dust. We can clearly see that there is much less dust there now. That greatly reduces the risk of malfunctions”, explains McMurray. Heijs is also very enthusiastic; he’s already recommended the system to other colleagues facing dust problems in their warehouses. “But companies will really only be convinced by coming here to see for themselves. Then they can really experience how the systems work and what they can deliver,” explains Sourcing Manager Heijs.

McMurray is happy that he has already had that experience and reiterates where the profit in this system lies for Ahold. “With Clean Air Solutions, we are convinced of the savings in cleaning costs, energy costs and maintenance costs, but much more importantly, we have achieved a considerable improvement in the working climate for our employees.”