



DEFROST

# Defrost On Demand

Defrost your evaporators, only when required

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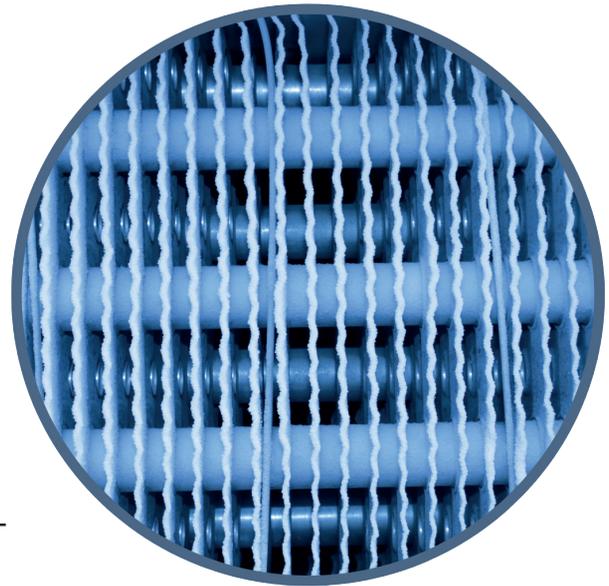
WE INCREASE  
UPTIME, SAFETY  
AND EFFICIENCY



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## Save Energy And Increase Capacity

Ice buildup reduces evaporator performance and results in less cooling capacity. Too much ice build-up will affect the air flow and reduce the heat transmission as ice acts as a thermal insulator.



### Save energy and increase capacity

- Reduced air flow affects the cooling capacity from 20 to 100%.
- The heat transmission is reduced by 5 to 15% with an ice layer on 1.5 to 2mm (fin spacing 7mm).

The ice buildup on evaporators in cold storage applications changes throughout the year, as outdoor climate conditions change. Traditionally, evaporator defrosts have been initiated based on a fixed time schedule, set to specific number of defrosts per day/week, regardless of whether a defrost is needed or not. During periods of the year where the climate has low humidity, typically during the winter months, ice on the evaporator surfaces builds up slower, and fewer defrosts are needed.

## Defrost Sensor - HBDF



HBDF is a unique, but easily adaptable solution for automatic defrosting of evaporators. Optimal defrosting results in energy savings and increased freezing capacity. Experiences from existing installations have shown savings up to 40% of energy and thereby fast return on your investment.

The sensor can be used on evaporators with minimum 5 mm fin spacing in cold rooms. The sensor works on heat pumps, but it requires special conditions and larger fin spacing.

[Press here to learn more](#)



### Typical savings

The largest savings are obtained for systems where a conventional timer based defrosting system is used and the humidity varies over time.

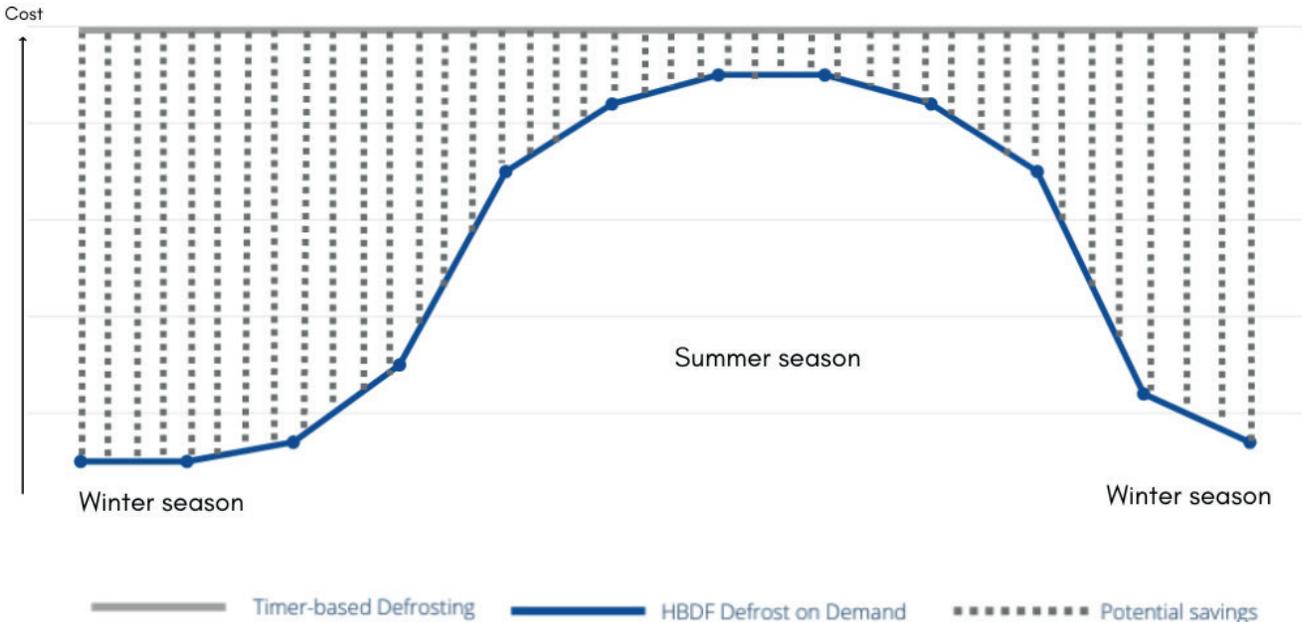
This will cause reduced capacity and increased energy consumption. In cold stores it is common to reduce the number of defrosting cycles by 50-70 % on a yearly basis.

Calculations are needed on your system to get exact savings.

“ Reduce the number of defrosting cycles by 50-70 % on a yearly basis. ”

## ENERGY CONSUMPTION

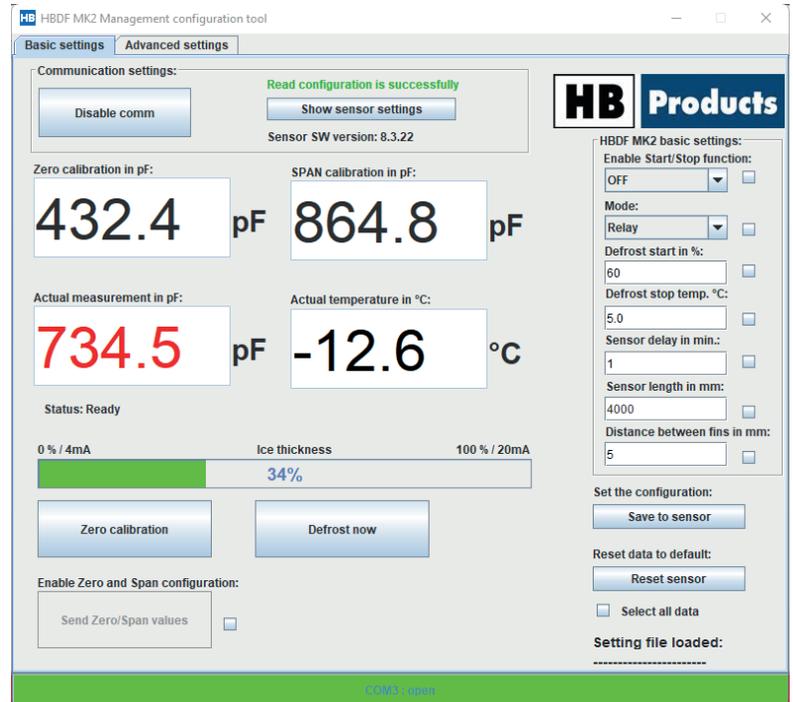
Example of Energy Consumption for Hot Gas Defrosting in Cold Storage





## How does it work

The defrost sensor is based on the capacitive measuring principle, in which an insulated steel wire acts as one conductor and the evaporator fins act as the second conductor. The sensor measures the ice thickness when the air is displaced by ice between the fins. During defrosting, the pF value is measured, which can be used to start and stop defrosting. When the defrosting has started, the ice becomes wet, whereby the pF value rises to a high level. When the ice has melted, the pF measurement drops again and stops defrost. The output is either a 4-20mA analog output or/and a digital output send to a master control system.



## Defrost On Demand

Demand driven defrost systems directly measure ice accumulation on the evaporator's surface and initiate defrost only when required.

Defrosting at the same ice thickness each time will reduce the frequency and duration of defrost, compared to time-initiated methods. Demand driven defrost reduces the number of defrost cycles substantially. Typical savings of minimum 20% to 40% in energy costs is achievable.



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## How to install

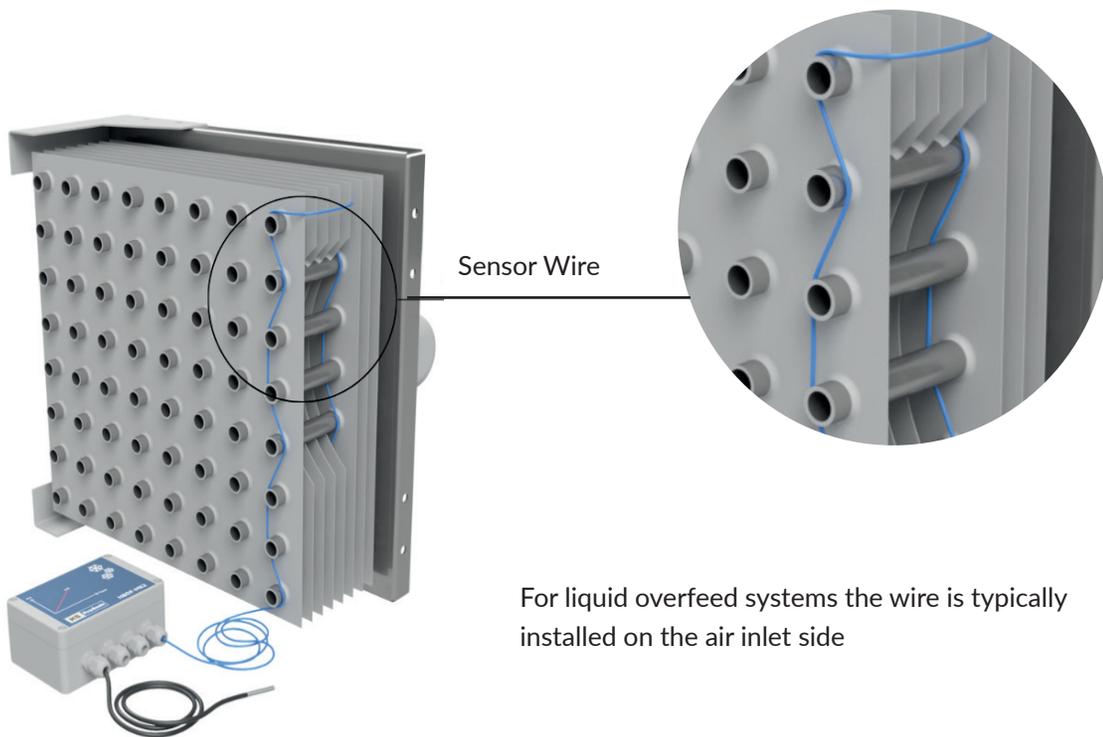
Depending on the design of the system, the wire must be placed different.

- For liquid overfeed systems ice is normally accumulated on the air inlet side.
- For DX systems ice will accumulate in the middle of the evaporator as the air inlet is typically used for superheating of the refrigerant.

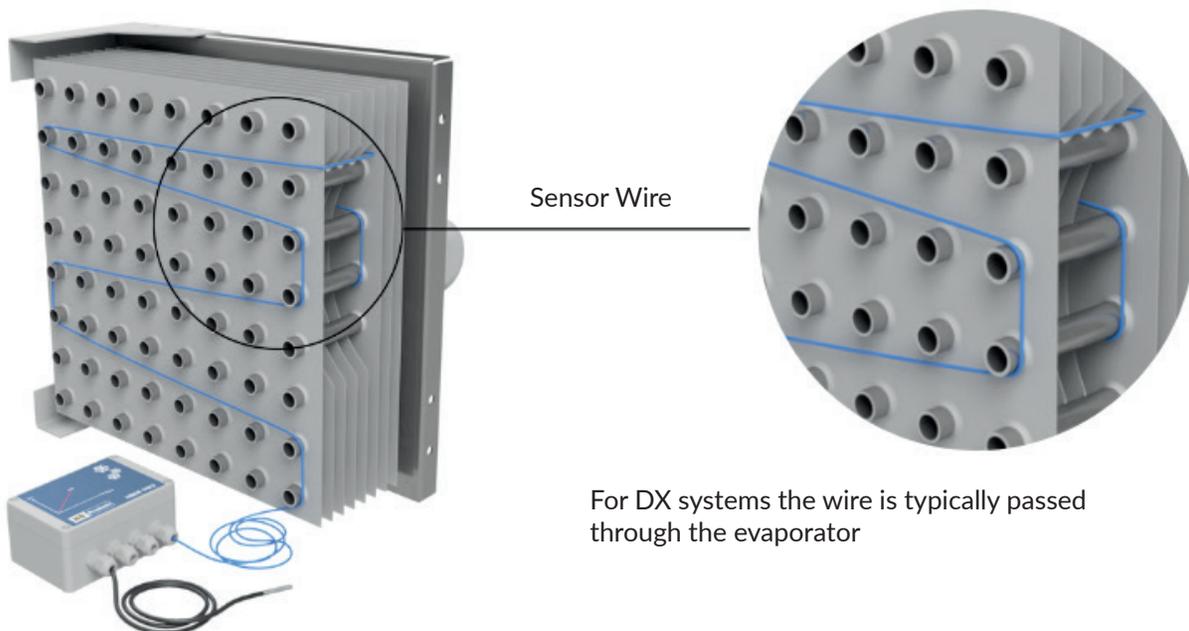
The coated wire is placed between the fins where the frost accumulates. If it is on an existing system, the wire is mounted where the ice layer gets thickest, this can be both be on the air inlet side, on the outlet side, or in the middle of the evaporator.

The wire is kept in place by the tubes and only needs to be long enough to get a representative measurement.

Installation time will be approx. 1 hour per evaporator plus the controller (PLC) programming.



For liquid overfeed systems the wire is typically installed on the air inlet side

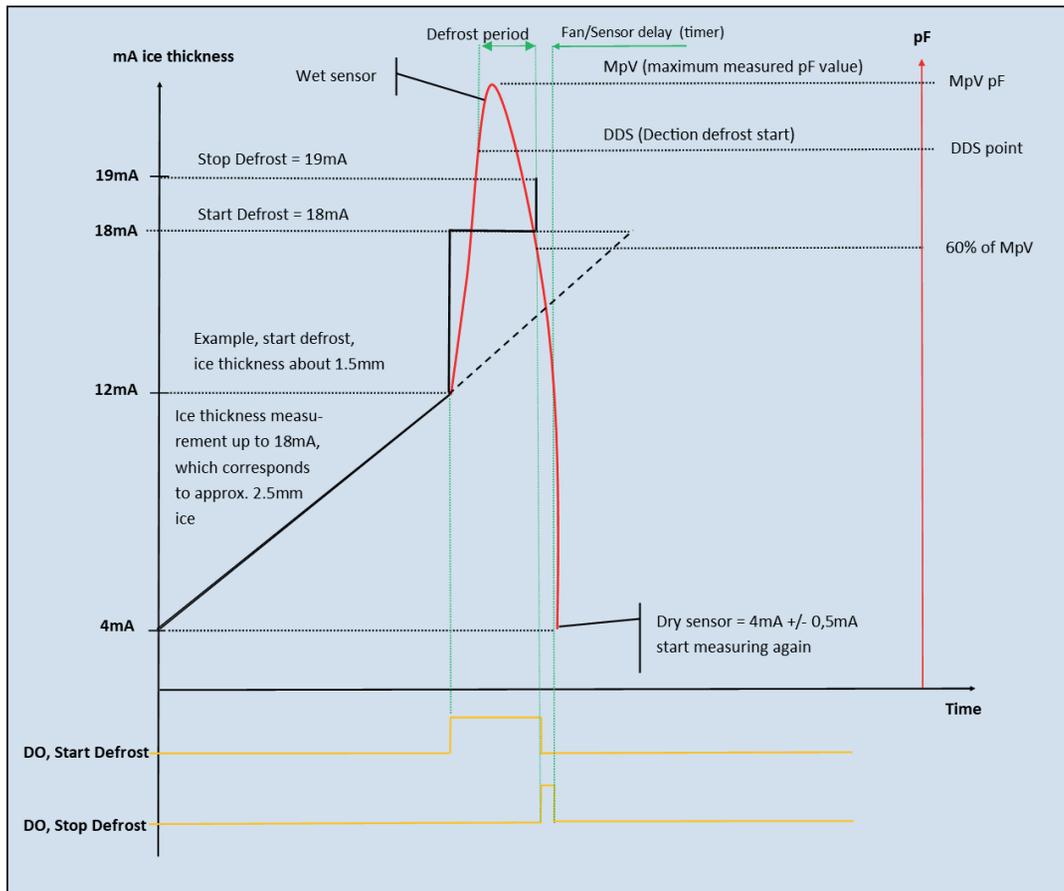


For DX systems the wire is typically passed through the evaporator



## PLC Connection

The signal output is a combination on analog 4-20mA and two digital relay outputs, shown on graphic chart below.



pF measurement is used to start and stop the defrost. The pF signal is measured continuously from ice build up and during defrost. Measurement of ice thickness depends on the calibration values, zero is the starting point and span is the sensitivity, both depend on sensor wire length as well as fin distance.

During defrosting, the evaporator gets wet, thereby increasing the measured pF signal to maximum value "MpV", when the pF signal has fallen more than 60% then the defrost is stopped (indicating that all the ice has melted)

Note: the surface is wet after defrost, the pF signal only drops to start value after the thin water film is frozen.





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## Tough Conditions

The use of Heat Pumps as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fueled based heating has grown immensely.

Conditions are very different to traditionally refrigeration systems as the evaporators are installed outdoor in all weather conditions.

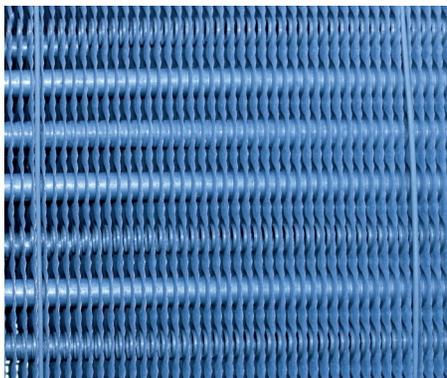
Especially defrosting is essential to gain optimal operation of a air-to-water heat pump. As the humidity in the surrounding air varies in relation to season and actual weather the interval between defrosting must vary as well.

The best way to obtain an optimal defrosting is by use of Defrost on Demand sensor solution from HB Products

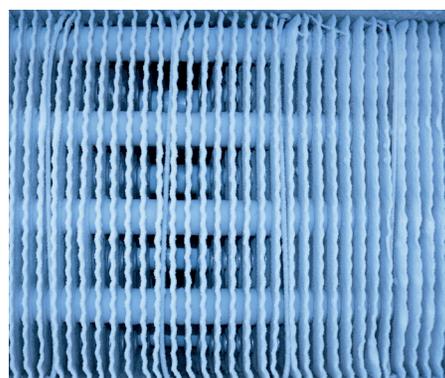
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The pictures to the left shows 3 typical stages of ice formation on an evaporator.

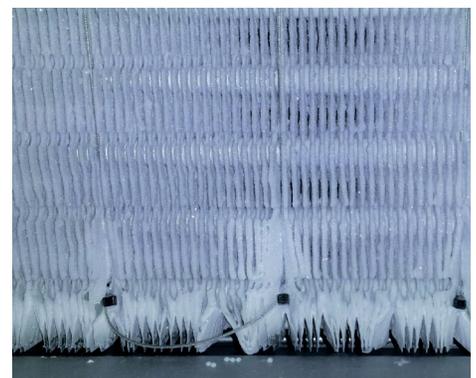
1. Clean evaporator right after end of defrosting cycle
2. Recommended ice formation before start of defrosting cycle
3. Too much ice formation – significant reduction of performance



1. Clean evaporator



2. Recommended ice formation



3. Too much ice formation

By use of Defrost on Demand solution from HB Products stage 2 will be possible to maintain no matter which time of the year or actual weather condition.

It reduces the number of defrost cycles to what is needed it ensures optimal operation of the heat pump system. Where timer based defrosting will demand defrost cycles when there isn't a need, or it will allow the evaporator to clog with too much ice, causing poor performance or no performance of the heat pump system.



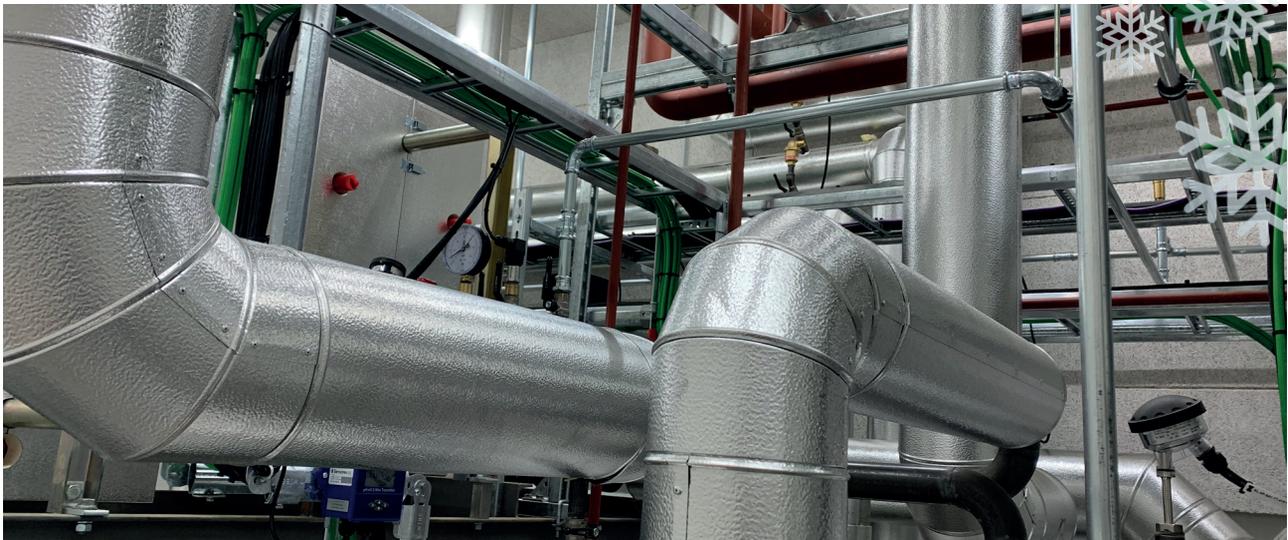
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## Proven by the Industry

HB Products has made reliable and efficient sensors and switches for the cooling industry for over 25 years.

We know that refrigeration systems must remain up and running, and we make all our products with that requirement in mind. Therefore, we test new products in refrigeration systems or industrial applications before we add them to our product line. That way we can guarantee that your installation will run safely and efficiently.

All our products are developed and made in Denmark to ensure the highest standards of quality. We use local components widely in the production and have our own in-house Q&A to ensure that every item lives up to the highest standards.



DF-HB2022-V2



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*We are dedicated to supplying switches and sensors for industrial applications. We focus on refrigeration, but our sensors can be used in other industrial applications where robust and reliable sensors are called for. Our sensors are developed and manufactured in Denmark. We mainly use local sourced parts to increase flexibility and reduce lead times. All sensors and switches comply with EU directives and have earned the CE marking.*