

Verkade cookie factory Zaandam, the Netherlands

Industrial bakery



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Previously at the Dutch cookie factory Verkade they used to have serious problems keeping the buildings clean from all the flour dust that spread in the air during production. Twenty-five Zehnder air cleaner units "came to the rescue".

The family business Verkade started more than 100 years ago as a bread and rusks bakery on the banks of the river Zaan.

Over the years Verkade has become one of the most well-known brands in the Netherlands. In 1950 they had the privilege to add "Royal" in front of the name, and in 2010 Verkade was selected Brand of the Year in the Netherlands. There are at present about 550 employees at the factory

at Westzijde in Zaandam, 325 of these in the production. They manufacture a wide selection of cakes, macaroons, butter cookies and waffles.

Flour in the air you breathe, not very good for the work environment

"In a company such as our's, dust has always been a problem", says Arie Visser, production manager at Verkade. "We used to have a lot of dust in the buildings, mostly where we did dough preparation and the flour sifting. It was not just an unhealthy work environment, the costs for cleaning were sky-high. Even so, we could not control the dust. In other words, we needed a better way to handle the problem. Such was the

situation in 2007 when Dick Stoorvogel, seller at Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, paid us a visit and offered to measure the air and make a preliminary study." Based on these measurements and a summary of all requirements, Verkade initially ordered seven air cleaner units of the E3000 model, with pre-filters and Flimmer filters that have a capacity of cleaning 3000 m³ of air every hour. During 2008 - 2010 a further 18 units were ordered from Zehnder and today a total of 25 of these air cleaner units are used in the cookie factory.

A happy production manager

Arie Visser is very happy with the new Zehnder air cleaner units.

FACTS

Company: Verkade cookie factory
Installed products: 25 x E3000
Dust reduction after installation: 79 %
Dust source: Flavor dust
Benefits: Improved working conditions, protecting the bakers from flavour dust (bakers' asthma) reduced cleaning costs
Installed since: 2007



"The results are just as we expected, and this is confirmed by our own measurements. The work conditions have improved considerably, and we need to clean much less nowadays. The fact that the units are easy to install and that they do not require any extra piping or cables is also very good. In this way it was easy to install air cleaner units in the other departments as well", says Arie Visser. He is happy with the cooperation with Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, and says that one of the advantages is that the costs for the entire life-time of the service agreement that Verkade signed with Zehnder is already known.



