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Chilling Case Histories

Refrigerant contaminants have long been a problem for chillers and the mechanical contractors who service them. Recently, James Samsa, service manager for Dillett Mechanical Services in New Berlin, Wis., discovered a more permanent solution to contamination problems.

“One of our clients, Southern Bell Company, had three centrifugal chillers that weren’t performing like they should,” Samsa said. “They had been running them at low loads, so I figured they had oil in the evaporator. When I got a chance to check them out, I found I was right. They asked what I could do, and I told them the options, one of which was install a new oil purger I had been reading about. That’s the one they chose.”

The purger Samson was talking about was the OAM Purger LPC200 from Redi Controls (www.redicontrols.com). It was designed to remove not only oil, but also moisture and acids from a chiller. The particular one he ordered is a new model that has only been available for a few months.

The purger doesn’t rely on pumps. It uses the properties of gravity, heat, and pressure to remove contaminants.

“The refrigerant is removed in quantities of 10 to 20 pounds each cycle,” said Redi Controls’ Mark Key. “A distillation heater then heats the refrigerant and causes it to boil off and be returned to the evaporator cleaned of contaminants. When the oil reaches a temperature of 145°, effectively purifying it, it is then returned to the oil sump. Excess oil can be pulled out and stored in containers. The system cleans between 850 and 1,250 pounds of refrigerant weekly and operates whether the chiller is on or not.”



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COURTESY OF REDI CONTROLS