

Case Study: Warehouse protected by Protec Cirrus Pro ASD

Since their inception in 1968, Protec have strived to deliver the very best quality products and service to the fire industry. Their innovative Cirrus Pro series of ASD systems uses the cloud chamber detection principle, used for its great sensitivity to detect fires at the earliest incipient stages and immunity to false alarms that affect other ASD detectors.

These systems are used to protect a wide range of buildings, from high sensitivity environments such as computer and control rooms, and archive areas, general sensitivity installations like historic buildings, atria, and clean warehouses, through to harsh environments like cold storage warehouses, production facilities and inaccessible voids.

The hope is that these systems will never be required, but if called on, must work accurately and reliably – there is no second chance! Regular testing of these systems is vital to ensure that they continue to perform as originally intended over their lifetime. This is not as easy as it may sound, as the sampling pipes are often inaccessible, or the time and cost of reaching them to perform a full in-situ test is prohibitive.

In Scorpion, Protec saw an opportunity to add a valuable test capability to their product. Scorpion is a functional smoke test system specifically designed to test hard to access ASD pipes and detectors. Scorpion comprises a smoke generating head unit that is mounted near the end sampling hole or the furthest accessible side sampling hole, and cabled back to a conveniently located controller. To run a test, the engineer simply plugs in the battery, selects the head adjacent to the point that needs testing, and presses the start button. This generates smoke right where it is needed near the sampling hole. Up to eight head units can be cabled to a single control panel, with each head up to 100m away (depending on the cable used).

Following an initial evaluation, Protec were confident enough to install a Scorpion system in their own warehouse in Nelson, Lancashire (UK). The system has been regularly tested since its installation in summer 2012, and has been found successfully test the Cirrus Pro ASD system.

Michael Calvert, Specialist Detection Systems Manager said “A test solution like Scorpion means we can be sure that all new sites have a fully testable system to ensure it delivers the performance we expect from our detection systems. The ability to test remotely means we have greater flexibility in our designs to ensure optimum detection.”

Following this success, Protec are now offering Scorpion as a test solution for new installations, as well as introducing it in the many facilities that their 200+ engineers maintain around the country.