

# Distribution center improves food safety and quality



*Automated monitoring systems deliver savings by protecting perishables and improving efficiency.*

## Customer

Associated Food Stores (AFS) is an independent retailer-owned warehouse based in Salt Lake City, Utah, which provides complete warehouse facilities and services to over 400 grocers throughout the Intermountain West.

## Challenge

The AFS Farr West Distribution Center wanted to improve food safety and quality while remaining compliant with food safety regulations during transport and storage. Suppliers send perishable products to the AFS distribution center on a regular basis. After product is received at AFS, it is placed in cold storage at the facility or in overflow trailers during busy times.

The company needed an automated temperature record-keeping system for these areas. They desired a solution from one company that could monitor both inbound and overflow storage in the yard.

## Summary

### VISIBILITY



**24/7**

Real-time yard monitoring  
+ inbound temperature  
monitoring

### COST SAVINGS



**\$28,000**

In two truckloads

“ *A load of bananas had basically cooked inside the trailer during transport. With the report from Copeland Cargo Solutions, we quickly identified the issue.* ”

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## Solution

Copeland Cargo automated monitoring systems capture and deliver cold chain temperature data to help users proactively make safety and quality decisions. Information is stored in the cloud for reporting and compliance requirements.

AFS first implemented an inbound program, where their vendors place GO wireless loggers on food shipments going to their distribution center. When the cargo reaches its destination, trip data is automatically sent to the receiving team to help determine quality and safety of the product before they accept the shipment. "We received a load of bananas that had basically cooked inside the trailer during transport. With the report from Copeland Cargo Solutions, we were able to show that it wasn't safe and it saved us from paying for the load, which was in return rejected back the carrier," said Terri Jensen, receiving manager at the distribution center.

In addition, AFS implemented GO real-time tracker monitoring devices to help monitor temperatures of perishable items stored in trailers when the distribution center was in overflow situation. The drop-in device monitors the temperature inside trailers and sends an alert via email or text to the receiving team if there is a temperature breach, allowing quick adjustments before the product is compromised. With no installation or need for IT infrastructure, the system was an ideal solution for overflow trailer storage. Without the need to manually check and pulp product every 1-2 hours, AFS experienced labor savings and improved efficiency.

"Copeland Cargo Solutions products are basically insurance policies for us and our vendors," Jensen said. "They allow us to ensure the products we receive and send to our stores are safe and prevent us from losing product."

## Results

- Utilized inbound and real-time solutions to protect food safety and quality while improving internal efficiencies
- Saved a trailer of watermelons worth \$14,000
- Identified substandard banana load in transit, allowing AFS to reject the \$14,000 load back to the carrier



*GO wireless trackers*

To learn more, visit [Copeland.com](https://www.copeland.com)

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