

STALAM

Radiofrequency Microwave Infrared



“RF” MEAT & FISH DEFROSTING

TRADITIONAL DEFROSTING

The traditional defrosting methods introduce a number of difficulties directly related to the heat transfer mechanisms: **slow process** (hours, sometimes days); **bacteria growth** in the product; **high drip loss** (economic loss); **deterioration** of the product surface; **batch processing** (high handling costs, risk of breakage, bruising and other damages to the product due to such handling).

“RF” DEFROSTING

Product surface deterioration and other drawbacks attributed to conventional defrosting methods can be avoided, thanks to the ability of RF to rapidly generate heat **volumetrically within the product**. The heating process is **uniform** and **controlled**, resulting in a significant **reduction of drip losses**. It also offers **great flexibility** in the production schedules and is the ideal solution for many tempering, softening and thawing processes.

The product is placed on the machine's conveyor belt and is transferred through the RF unit (tunnel) passing between upper and lower metallic plates (electrodes). When the RF generator applies high frequency alternating voltage between these plates, the dipolar water molecules of the frozen product will vibrate and rotate in the attempt to align themselves according to the fast changing opposite plates polarities. This phenomenon causes intermolecular friction, which will in turn generate heat rapidly and uniformly within the whole product mass **regardless of its size, weight, shape and thermal conductivity**.

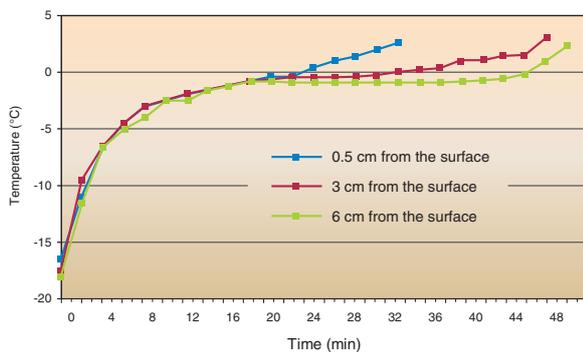
The amount of heat generated inside the product and the defrosting time are accurately controlled through the voltage applied on the electrode plates and the speed of the conveyor belt.



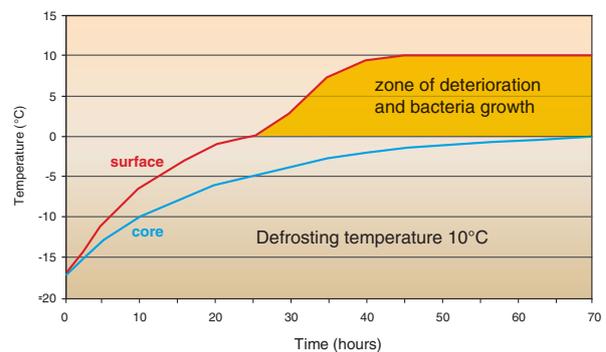
Some types of meat and seafood that can be successfully defrosted with RF technology.

“RF” MAIN ADVANTAGES

- defrosting is achieved in **minutes** rather than hours/days, even for large product blocks and, if necessary, directly inside packaging used for storage (carton boxes, polyethylene bags, etc.);
- the **processing speed** and **uniformity** minimise product degradation: **No drip loss**; No deterioration of organoleptic, chemical or physical properties; **No bacterial growth**; Thus the very best product quality is preserved;
- radio frequency defrosting can be carried out **continuously**, with significant logistical advantages in product handling and production scheduling. The production can be organised according to “just-in-time” criteria - a great advantage in case of sudden orders, last-minute changes in the order under processing, etc.;
- radio frequency equipment requires much **less floor space** compared to the traditional, large defrosting rooms or equipment; **overall processing costs** can also be reduced drastically compared to conventional techniques.



Radio frequency defrosting of a 12 cm thick block of pork meat.



Traditional defrosting of a 12 cm thick block of deboned beef meat.

“RF” MACHINE CHARACTERISTICS

- Radio Frequency at 27,12 MHz.
- Construction in stainless steel AISI 304 / 316 with anti corrosion (passivation, pickling) treatment for even the most demanding environments.
- Intralox belt in polyethylene with open structure for easy cleaning.
- Integrated belt washing system and complete internal access for cleaning through the multiple side panel doors.
- PLC control system for multiple product recipes.
- Production capacities can vary depending the type of product to be defrosted and the final temperature required.
- STALAM Radio Frequency machines available in module sizes from 10 kW_{RF} to 105 kW_{RF} for defrosting food products. Multiple modules can be combined to increase the production capacity.



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