PROBA 4.
In control of banana ripening

World leaders in process control.
Banana retailers want their bananas delivered at a specific time, at a specific ripeness and in specific numbers. It is up to the professional banana suppliers to ensure that they meet their clients’ requirements. The PROBA 4 will ensure that suppliers are able to regulate the overall banana ripening process in their warehouses – a meticulous process that involves regulating temperature, gas concentration, humidity, ventilation and pressure – exactly to the demands/requirements of his client(s). To the last detail. The PROBA 4 will enhance your competitiveness by enhancing the quality of your product...

More and wider control with the new PROBA 4

VDH Products: continuous superior performance

VDH Products develops its products with warranted superior performance in mind. VDH interprets ‘superior performance’ as: doing exactly what the user wants/needs the equipment to do, combined with durability and ease-of-use. This is exactly what our equipment offers. This is what has made VDH a leading brand in high-quality control systems worldwide. VDH Products - no frills, just quality. Over 25 years of sustained superior performance in metering and measuring instruments and cooling technology worldwide!

The new PROBA 4

The PROBA 4 is the newest generation banana ripening regulators for warehouses, the latest addition to the successful PROBA series. Its predecessors have proven to be a true business asset worldwide: reliable, versatile, economical and simple to use.

The new PROBA 4 is the latest improved generation. It allows you even more and wider control

The PROBA 4 has been reprogrammed. The new PROBA 4 now has a flexible interface that enables it to control even more ripening chambers, it is easy to program, it can manage over 100 regulators, and is now connected by Ethernet.

It simply does the job and does it well. And, above all, it is reliable, very reliable. Elements you want to ensure business continuity!
The PROBA 4 has been developed on the basis of the actual experiences of and feedback from professional banana ripeners and it has been extensively tested in even the most difficult environments. It has even passed the severest TÜV tests. The result: proven reliability.

YOU are in control of the ripening process.

VDH has already supplied more than 5,000 operating systems for ripening chambers and has built up extensive knowledge about the do’s and don’ts in the industry. The result is a truly professional system that offers you more ripening process parameter options than any other system in the market. And, as you know very well: perfect control means perfect products, and perfect products mean business. Time and again.

The PROBA 4 uses proprietary software, which can be operated from a central PC in an operating room. The software can be set up to your requirements easily and quickly. It runs on your existing network server (or a new, dedicated server). As all you need is a standard Java browser, special client software is no longer needed. PROBA 4 can also be controlled via the Internet from a remote location. This makes the PROBA 4 not only highly technically and operationally effective; it is also highly affordable.

The PROBA 4 is mounted in the central switch box or near the door of the ripening chamber. It then monitors and regulates all relevant stages and elements of the ripening process in the ripening chamber. Just enter the specific parameters of the intended ripening process on your PC and you are in control. Such parameter programs are easy to create, as the interface of the PROBA 4 is unambiguous and 'intuitively' user-oriented.

Supplying perfect bananas in bulk is not a simple business. It requires perfect timing and perfect logistics. Why settle for less than perfect tools to achieve perfect business?

The program has been set up in an intuitive way for the user. This makes it very easy to use and very logical. All relevant data such as ripening program, log entries, intermediate changes are stored in both the ripening cycles and the batch database. The ripening process data can easily be retrieved and printed at all times. Either as requested by the client or for management information purposes.

Creating your own ripening programs is easy. The ripening process is shown in a graph. All the operator has to do is set, change or remove set points in the graph. New programs are set up based on the required end date of the ripening process, the date agreed on with your client. Once programmed, the programs can be fine-tuned and adjusted in detail – you do not have to adjust the standard program.

The PROBA 4 monitors and regulates the entire ripening process from the moment the green bananas arrive in the warehouse cells. It is an ‘intelligent’ regulator.
Easy-to-create ripening programs

You create a ripening program by means of a graph. You can set, change or remove setpoints in that graph. You can have setpoint changes proceed by steps or via a curve. When starting a new program you can select a program depending on the desired end date. You can subsequently fine-tune the program each time without having to adapt the standard programs.

Ripening cycles

These start automatically when a program starts and stop once the program is completed.

Manual batch management

Batches can be started and stopped manually; the program allows the creation of custom fields in the batch database. Here batch-specific data can be entered such as country of origin, banana brand, number of boxes, etc.

Up to 100 regulators for up to 100 ripening chambers

The program allows the user to create four file tabs per location. Each tab regulates a maximum of 25 regulators. This helps you to keep the process(es) organised. The status of each regulator or ripening chamber can be seen at a glance. This set-up allows you to monitor and operate up to 100 regulators.

And... PROBA 4 enables you to have more than one location!

PROBA 4 uses Ethernet for communication. The great advantage of this set-up is that the regulator can be incorporated into a network with standard cables, standard connectors and standard switches. Simple to install and very affordable; further beneficial features of this revolutionary new version!

Special functionalities

Personalised access

Access to the PROBA 4 can be personalised for a specific user base. Likewise, it is possible to specify which regulators are visible to which users and which should remain invisible. The PROBA 4 operating software is available in several languages. Ask your supplier.

Alarms and warnings

Something unexpected can always occur during a natural ripening process. You want to know a.s.a.p. when something happens to your bananas that you do not want, or have not anticipated. The PROBA 4 generates several alarms. Urgent response can be specified as well as follow-up actions. Alarms can be sent to and dealt with by the operator on hand but also by a remote operator (by SMS or e-mail), if required.

Management information

PROBA 4 enables users to generate management information on the ripening process whenever required – via back-ups, data export or in print. These tasks can be executed automatically as well as periodically – daily, weekly, monthly, etc.

Specifications

The PROBA 4 offers the following connections:

- Supply voltage: 85 to 264 VAC
- 9x Pt1000 temperature sensors
- 8x analogue inputs for e.g. gas and humidity sensors
- 8x digital inputs for door contact and external alarms
- 8x analogue output for e.g. three-way valves
- 16x relay outputs
- RS485 output to control unit
- I2C output for expansion module (ready for the future!)
- Ethernet connection for network

TÜV approved

The new PROBA 4 has been tested by TÜV Rheinland (Germany) and fully meets their strict requirements. An approval ID number has been issued, which is valid across the entire world.

PROBA 4 – A superior TÜV approved innovative ripening system, based on years of experience in the banana trade. A VDH product. Simply the best in the market!

Want to know more?

See PROBA 4’s superiority and versatility with your own eyes? Contact your dealer, installer or VDH Products BV today.