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## LITTLE DEVICE LEADS TO BIG IMPROVEMENTS IN QUALITY

The information that is stored in this little device has contributed to a strong reduction in temperature deviations in BAMA's goods transport from Europe. The result is that goods are both fresher and last longer on the shop shelves.

TempTale RF is the name of the system that has been developed by the American company Sensitech. In 2009 BAMA was the first company in Europe to use the device when transporting fruit and vegetables, and it has made an active contribution to the further development and adaptation of the product. Logistics, Quality and Trading are working together on the project.

„Our biggest stores are in vehicles and containers and so having the correct, stable temperature during transport is decisive for delivering the best possible products with a good shelf life. We noticed that there were too many deviations in the cooling chain while the goods were being transported, particularly on 2-5 day journeys from southern Europe. So we intervened to find the reasons for this and to find measures that we could put in place”, says Dag Thomassen, head of quality at BAMA Trading.

### Cheaper insurance

The result is the Sensitech device, which has been placed in all vehicles transporting fruit and vegetables from Spain since October 2009. The TempTale RF system automatically reads the actual temperature during the whole journey through Europe and it is checked and registered when the vehicle arrives at BAMA's terminal in Oslo.

On the basis of this, new loading instructions have been drawn up for drivers and suppliers, who together check that the vehicle has been cooled before loading takes place, and that all the pallets are correctly loaded and are at the correct temperature.

BAMA has developed a temperature list that shows the ideal temperatures for all products, and which products should be loaded together.



„The forms lead to some extra work but nonetheless this is cheap insurance for transporters and suppliers. And the results are very encouraging. In the first season we registered 80 per cent major or minor temperature deviations in the vehicles coming from Spain. The measures we introduced meant that this sank to 20 per cent the following season”, says Thomassen.

### Extending the project

From December 2010 the new routines were also adopted for transport from Italy and the plan is that the rest of Europe will follow. Better temperature control will have major positive effects for sensitive products such as salads, mushrooms and berries in particular.

„This is one of the tools in the “Ferskere ferksvare” project (the “Fresher fresh goods” project) and consumers will notice the results in the form of fresher products in the shops. The aim is for the system to go on-line so that we can follow the temperature regularly during the journey and deal with deviations straight away”, concludes Dag Thomassen.

The TempTale RF system will eventually be merged with the goods flow project.

*Quality consultant in Trading Sverre Bjørdam shows the little Sensitech device that has made a huge contribution to improving the quality of products that are transported from southern Europe.*