

case study



Kitchen patrol. How a simple switch is helping maintain safety in the kitchen for the long haul.

Peace-of-mind is often worth the price — especially when the cost of failure means more than simple dollars and cents.

Honeywell



Delivering Peace of Mind

Such was the case for a Belgian manufacturer

of kitchen appliances. The manufacturer needed to specify a safety mechanism for its new line of industrial kitchen fryers. The fryer, a heated vessel that fries food electrically, required a safety switch to keep it turned off when it wasn't in use. This important feature would help ensure user safety when cleaning the fryer, for example.

While the safety mechanism was simple in concept, the manufacturer assumed it would translate into an economical — or low-cost — application. However, when the manufacturer reviewed numerous available offerings, the answer became far less black-and-white. The critical issue was not

a matter of product cost, but rather the potential cost of failure. If the device failed to work, it could mean a major product recall, or worse, liability for injuries. The manufacturer required a switch that was highly repeatable, which, in the case of the fryer, meant always maintaining the safety position when activated.

“Using an unreliable switch was simply a risk we couldn't afford to take,” the manufacturer explained. “Even if only a couple of fryers failed, we could still face a costly recall of at least thousands of units. Many of the switches we explored didn't offer the right combination of design and repeatability that we required.”

As a result, the manufacturer looked to the Honeywell MICRO SWITCH™ V-Basic Premium V5 Series, a line of highly reliable switches for potential safety applications in appliances like the fryer.

The manufacturer's selection came down to the Honeywell switch's superior design. The V5 switch is often ideal for manual operator interface applications, and includes precision snap-action mechanisms for simple on/off positioning. The V5 also features 100 percent repeatability for up to 100,000 cycles. Other switches have a limited product life, supporting fewer cycles, and offering less repeatability.

“The Honeywell switch is robust and rugged enough to handle a commercial kitchen environment, which gives us a great deal of peace-of-mind,” the manufacturer said. “The difference in repeatability makes the switch worth the investment, because we know it's not going to fail and leave someone injured.”

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004948-1-EN IL50 GLO
September 2008

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