

REFRIGERATION REVIEW

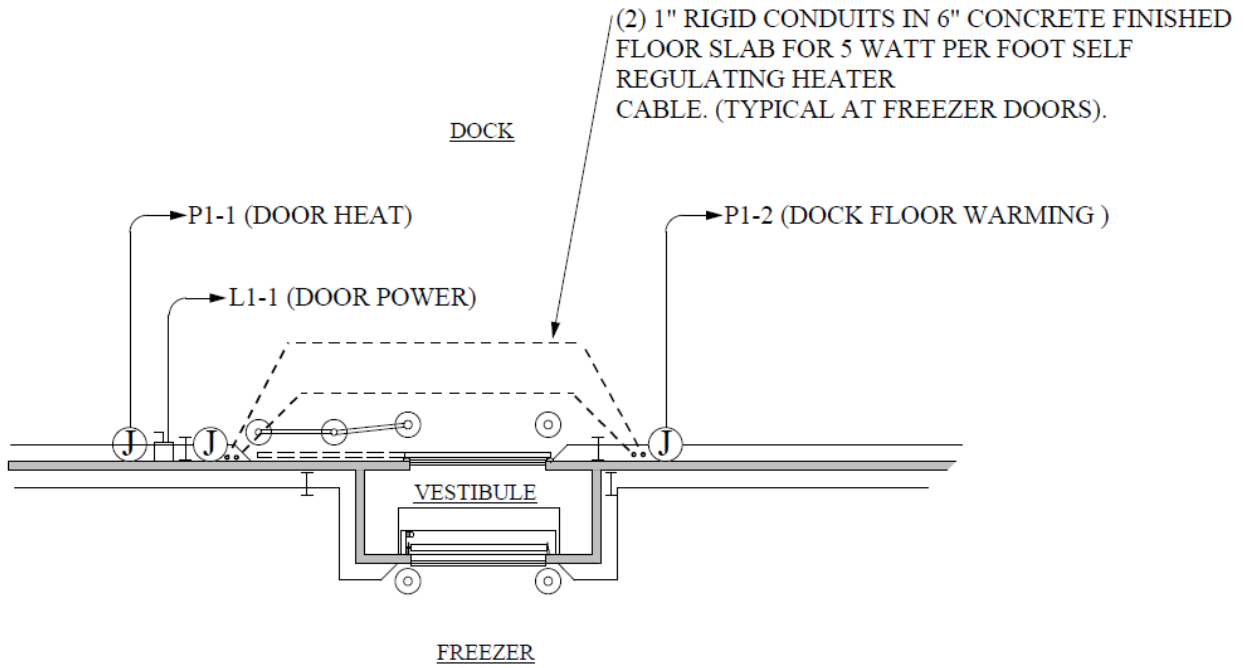
Freezer Dock Doors

I am reminded of what an old-time corporate engineer said about cold air: "Cold air will find its way to everywhere." For Joe Smith from years back, and more recently both in small scale and in larger facilities, cold air can be a challenge around freezer doors. Typically, at the freezer dock doorway we would isolate the two wearing floor slabs, however, we normally would not provide insulation under the dock floor. In some cases this can be a real challenge if there is heavy activity in and out of the freezer, which means cold air will continuously roll out of the freezer door and gradually freeze the ground below, causing floor heaving.

There are several ways to alleviate this. The most direct way is to embed heater cable in the floor around the door. We normally do this with 1" conduit placed on 1' centers with 4 to 5 watt self-regulating heater cable. Another way is to create mini heated vestibules that provide a warm air cushion which will then mix with cold air leaving the freezer, and keep it above 32°F.

In any case, it would be well to address the situation before it occurs, as the retrofit gets very complicated and disruptive to one's operation.

Below is an illustration of a typical detail we use for this purpose.



HEATED DOCK FLOOR @ VESTIBULE DOORWAY

SCALE : NONE